

JANUARY 1899

PRICE 5 CENTS

VOLXI NO3 MN 123

COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK

AUGUSTA, MAINE.

BOSTON.

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MAY COMFORT BE WITH YOU
IN YOUR HOMES THROUGH
ALL THIS YEAR * * *



PRIZE WINNERS FOR JANUARY.

Sara A. Underwood, First Prize.
Harriet W. Seaver, Second Prize.
Guy E. Mitchell, Third Prize.
Juliette M. Babbitt, Fourth Prize.
Aubertine W. Moore, Fifth Prize.

THE ODD ONE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SARA A. UNDERWOOD.

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APA, will you take me as an apprentice? I want to learn to set type."

Mr. Horace Staples, head of the Boston publishing firm of Staples and Stilton, looked up in surprise from the morning paper he was reading, at the tall, graceful, serious-eyed girl who stood before him; then he broke into a puzzled laugh.

"Bless my soul, Theo, what in the world do you mean?" he exclaimed.

"Just what I say, papa, I want to be a printer. I have been thinking about it seriously for a week, and I have decided to have that sweet-looking woman who works at the case near the desk in the upper room to teach me, if she will."

"Upon my word, Theo, you grow odder and odder," said her father looking at her curiously. "Why don't you act sensibly like your sisters and not annoy us all by breaking out into such unexpected fads?"

The girl stood with her head thrown slightly back, her hands clasped behind her, a soft pink flush on her fair face and a far away look in her large, dreamy, brown eyes as she replied.

"A great many things have set me to thinking lately, papa. I know, though you have not said much, that your business is not as prosperous as you would like it to be, or you wouldn't have taken a partner lately. And you have three unmarried girls on your hands. I am twenty-three and am not so likely to marry as Rose and Anna. My brothers don't take kindly to the publishing business, and I know I should like it, and I thought I might begin with type-setting and learn all branches so that in time I may be of assistance to you. Besides, I want to know how life looks from the point of view of the common workman. I hate the useless life I am forced to lead. I just long to do something."

And now her eyes sought his with a tense imperative look that he had come to know well as implying a mood it was useless to argue against. But though he was touched by the tender, unexpected thoughtfulness evinced by her reference to his business, yet he made one more attempt to move her.

"If it's a career you're after, Theo, why don't you take the good the gods offer, marry Mr. Bernard, and enter upon a career that any other girl in your set would glory in? He is rich, of the bluest blood, and as his wife you could sway society to your liking."

Theo's beautifully curved lips curled with contempt.

"Mr. Bernard! you would like me to be chained to a Golden Calf rather than see me living a true life of helpful beneficence! Oh, papa, if his blood is 'blue' it must be because it has been frozen to the point of blueness. Sway society through that soulless animal! I'd rather marry your stable-boy. No, I must meet life face to face. If you won't let me go into your establishment, then I shall apply somewhere else."

"Theo, you try me so," her father cried, "suppose I yield, what would your sisters say, what would my employees say, what would society say?"

The gold-crowned head gave a little toss, the Grecian nostrils slightly quivered, a defiant smile crept into lips and eyes.

"Why, papa," she said. "What can they say but that I'm the 'odd one' of the family? Do let me live up to my reputation."

"Well, go along and talk it over with your mother, child," said Mr. Staples resignedly returning to his paper, "and I'll see about it."

Yes, Theodora Staples was and had been from childhood decidedly "odd." Her two brothers older than herself, and two younger sisters comprised the family. The young men had studied respectively medicine and law and were now slowly getting into practice. Their

sisters Rose and Anna, were two rather pretty lively girls of twenty and eighteen. All these went along in the recognized lines of the society in which they moved. With Theodora, the eldest daughter and beauty of the family it was decidedly different. In her childhood she exhibited queer traits of character. She was given to going away by herself, sitting for hours in a state of dreamy reverie, with a happy smile on her lips and a far away look in her large eyes. She resented interruption at such times and afterwards told her parents strange fairy-like tales of what she had seen and heard. But after she had been punished several times for this inclination to romancing, she no longer indulged her imagination in this way, at least there was no further recital of her visions. She was apt too, to stop in the midst of her play, turn her head in a direction where there was no person visible, as though listening, then make some irrelevant remark; but this passed away with her childhood, and the fears for her sanity entertained by her worried parents partly wore away also, since in her bright moods no one could be more charming or reasonable.

But all through her childhood, and even since attaining maturity, she was inclined to do and say the most unexpected things. Her brothers were seriously annoyed by this and her sisters more often amused. "Oh, it's only one of Theo's oddities!" her lively sister Rose would explain to some puzzled visitor. "She's the salt that savors the commonplace of our lives." To her father she was a puzzle, but to her invalid mother she was a comfort and joy. Who brought so much sunshine into the sick room as Theo? Whose step was so soft, whose hand so deft, whose presence made the evenings when Mr. Staples was deep in business problems, and her younger daughters absent at party or theater, times of sacred soul communion, reading to her from Emerson, the Brownings and others, or from some wise magazine essayist bits of gold from mints of truth, which led to long conversations between mother and daughter that drew them both into higher intellectual and spiritual altitudes, albeit she could not always follow Theo's daring leadership into rare atmospheres.

One of the oddities which gave most offense to her brothers, which even worried her mother, and against which her sisters most strongly protested, was the utter unreasonableness as well as strength of her attractions and antipathies for persons. And indeed it was not pleasant for her brothers when they brought home a gentleman friend whom they highly honored, to find his introduction to their beautiful sister met on her part with cool hauteur; or at parties given in their own home to find Theo made conspicuous by her absence, simply because she "could not endure" the presence of some of the invited guests. When her father gave a dinner party it was not always that he could prevail upon his eldest daughter to take her invalid mother's place at the table. Rose had of late come to be the one relied upon to do the honors of such occasions. Even when traveling she was very likely to change her seat unceremoniously because it made her unhappy to be in near proximity to often personally unknown fellow travelers. On the other hand she would evince a strong attachment to some servant or dependent of the family; while often she would enter into conversation with strangers who took her fancy on street car or railway. Still there was always a certain dignity in all she said and did, which repelled familiarity on the part of those she liked and which prevented those with whom she had no affiliation from quite hating her.

She was now twenty-three and strangely, so her family thought, so far had shown no inclination to listen favorably to any one of the many eligible young men who would fain have wooed her favor. Despite the striking beauty and the pleasing manners which became her so well when in the mood, there was no trace of coquetry or approach to flirtation about her. She became ice at once with each would-be wooer so soon as words or actions intimated his hope.

And now here she was in one of her perverse moods demanding permission to learn a trade, and such a dirty trade! But her father knew from many earlier experiences with this odd child of his that she would never rest satisfied until she had tried this new experiment, as their family doctor, when consulted as to her strange, childish freaks, had warned the parents to beware of too strongly crossing the will of this wayward one, with dark hints of possible insanity if her whims were opposed. But what a trial such oddity was in a girl so lovely and generally so lovable!

As foreseen, Theo had her way, and a few weeks later found her promoted to a case of her own in one of the rooms where mainly women printers were employed. She had really shown remarkable aptness in learning to set type, and as the quiet widow whom she had chosen as her teacher informed her, gave promise of becoming an expert if she kept at it long enough. She had taken to it with real enthusiasm and she made a striking picture dressed in a high-necked apron of dark stuff to protect her black dress, her cheeks flushed with interest, and a pretty frown between her eyebrows as she bent over the stick of type in her hand while she consulted with rapid glance the next word in the copy. At least so thought

Mr. Ambrose Stilton, recently taken into the house as a partner, but whom Theo had not met before her type-setting mania had taken possession of her.

But Theo had entered upon this experiment with a serious purpose in view. She wanted really to know the lives of working girls, with a hope to be of help to them. So at the noon hour, and at other leisure times, she cultivated the acquaintance of such girls as seemed most interesting to her, leading them to talk of themselves until she won from them a most affectionate yet respectful place in their hearts.

All unsuspected by herself she had also won the passionate admiration of her father's partner. But Ambrose Stilton was too wise to commit himself in any way until he felt somewhat sure of his ground, especially with one who had the reputation of "the odd one." That oddity in her only made her all the more attractive to the very strong willed young man who delighted in overcoming obstacles of whatsoever nature.

In his official capacity he had opportunities for addressing her which otherwise would not have been possible. As for Theo, she decided at once that Mr. Stilton was one of her antipathies, and when her father introduced her she greeted him in her haughtiest manner, with a little nod of indifference. But this repulsion gradually disappeared and she soon found him rather agreeable.

Ambrose Stilton was tall, broad-shouldered, a good figure, suave, alert and wide awake in manner, dark skinned almost as a Spaniard, with close cropped black hair, shining black eyes, Roman nose and well-shaped mouth, half concealed by a carefully trimmed mustache. He was a man whom most girls would think very attractive, but a student of physiognomy would have detected about the mouth hard and cruel lines, inflexible strength of will in the curves of the jaws, shifty, treacherous lights in the piercing eyes. Something of this Theo felt and she avoided much conversation outside of business matters.

Her father had taken her all over the establishment when she first entered. On the floor below the one where she worked, the book printing was done, presided over by a young foreman, Oliver Norman, whose quiet dignity of manner, dark blue melancholy eyes and Greek profile had arrested Theo's attention as, at her father's desire he explained some of the working of the machinery. He seemed about twenty-five.

"Isn't he rather young, papa," asked Theo, as they proceeded to other portions of the building, "to have charge of so many people, many of them older than himself?"

"Yes," replied her father, "he does seem young, but he is quite a genius in his way. He comes of a family that have seen 'better days,' as the saying is, and when he was obliged to leave college at seventeen, he chose to learn the printer's trade. He went into it with enthusiasm too. There isn't any part of the printing and publishing business which he doesn't understand, so that he is really more proficient than most men twice his age. He has also considerable mechanical skill. He is at work now on an invention which he thinks will be a great improvement in one part of our press machinery. I have partitioned off a corner in the office on that floor where he can work at odd times on his model. If it's what he represents, it may bring him a pretty income when he gets it patented."

"Oh, papa," cried the deeply interested Theo, "why in the world didn't you take him into partnership instead of Mr. Stilton?"

"Because, my dear, the business needed money and push more than brains or knowledge of the business. I have secured both in Mr. Stilton, who would not be able to fill Norman's place in the direct management of such a happy-go-lucky set of printers as we have. For all his quiet way Norman gets more work out of them than any man we have ever had in his place."

Though Oliver Norman's business brought him frequently into the department where Theo worked, he never seemed to note her presence nor that of any of the working women save as workers, and it was two months after her entrance upon her new life before he spoke to her. It came about in this way.

Theo's own individuality was, to herself, a profound mystery. With the exception of her mother the members of her family were prosaic, "correct" personalities. Her own repressed self which broke forth ever and anon into emphatic expressions, seemed so often to perplex or horrify her relatives, that she unceasingly wondered why she was so different from them. But her knowledge that the thoughts she longed to share with others in regard to the mysteries of being, would be met with troubled stares and uncomprehending replies, had caused her to seek to conceal her real self more and more as she grew older.

Staples & Stilton, in addition to book publishing, did the printing for various periodicals. In this department Theo's first work was done, and one day she became deeply interested in some copy given her for one of these which dealt with some of the questions which had so haunted her mind; its title was "Psychic Mysteries," and in it she found allusion to many of the so-called illusions which had been hers in childhood and to others that still

worried her at times. It was delightful to know that others beside herself had had the same experiences, the causes of which the writer seemed desirous of solving; explaining the various theories offered by the society for Psychic Research and adding a mere hint of his own. The last two or three pages had been given to another girl, but so soon as the article was complete she sought out the "galleys" containing it, and was deeply surprised to find there the name "Oliver Norman." She recalled that her father had mentioned the fact of his contributing occasional articles to journals and she wondered much if this article was written by him.

The next day as he passed she felt a strong impulse to speak to him, but while she restrained herself from actually doing so, her imperious inner self called insistently, though silently, "Oliver Norman! Oliver Norman! speak to me!"

As he drew near his pace involuntarily slackened, he turned toward her with a puzzled look, passed onward a step or two, then came to her side.

"Excuse me Miss Staples," he stammered. "Did you speak to me?"

Theo blushed furiously as she raised her serious brown eyes to the earnest sea-blue pair gazing down upon her.

"No, Mr. Norman," she replied, "I did not speak your name but I was thinking it very strongly and wishing much to ask you a question. Yesterday I was setting up an article for the Phoenix Magazine which interested me so much that I read it all after it was in proof. The name signed to it was yours, and I would like to be sure that you are the writer of 'Psychic Mysteries.'"

His eyes brightened. "Oh, are you interested in that question, Miss Staples? I am so glad to hear it. Yes, I wrote the article but I did not venture to express my own views very strongly. Have you made a special study of it, may I ask?"

"Oh, dear, no," confessed Theo, feeling now very much at her ease, "I don't know anything about these theories you write of—I only know that they harmonize with certain facts of my own existence which have puzzled me and chagrined my relatives. I long to know more of this subject Mr. Norman, and will be greatly obliged to you to set me on the right track to gain knowledge on it."

"Why, Miss Staples, it was my own few experiences that set me to thinking on the subject. I will make out a list of books by writers new and old which you will find serviceable. I am now writing a book myself on the problems of telepathy and clairvoyance and I would be profoundly obliged if sometime you would be good enough to tell me of some of your experiences; it would be so helpful to me."

"What! to put into a book? I couldn't do that you know," declared Theo.

"Not if your personality were concealed! and to aid in the discovery of the true laws which govern Mind, Spirit, the intelligence of the universe—that which we hardly yet know how to name?" he exclaimed with enthusiasm. Then suddenly checking himself—"O, pardon me Miss Staples, it was ridiculous and impertinent in me to ask you. Do please forgive me!"

Theo smiled charmingly.

"I understand," she said, "and to prove to you that you are forgiven, I will tell you now

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one phase of my experience. I seem to know instantly with most persons I meet for the first time, whether I can trust to their intuitions to understand me when I speak to them frankly, and of my own inmost self, without attempting to conform to the standards of conventionality. To those towards whom I take an instant antipathy I am a sealed book. Other types alternately win and repel me. Still others I feel an absolute indifference toward; they bore but do not cause antagonism. Now, I felt I could trust you as one of the first mentioned. Otherwise I would not have spoken to you of the peculiarities which make me the odd one in my family. Your article offered me the first clue to the mysteries of my own mind, and I could not help saying what I did!"

His eyes sought hers frankly, sympathetically, comprehendingly.

"I sometimes think," he said gently, "that if we could all act directly from such intuitions, we should really make fewer mistakes than we do when guided by the formal laws of society, in our social intercourse with each other. I am sure your intuitive knowledge makes it unnecessary for me to say that your words will not be repeated. May I bring you the list of books to-morrow?"

"If you will be so kind," and she turned hastily to her half-filled stick and neglected copy.

This was the beginning of a new life of thought for Theo. She procured the books suggested by Norman. In these she found reported cases analogous to her own childish experiences; these she read to her parents who thus became interested in the subject, and at Mr. Staples' suggestion Oliver Norman was invited to the house to explain his theories as to thought transference, etc., to them. This led to further calls when a few intimate friends were invited to be present and experiments were made in various directions of Psychical phenomena. Rose and Anna and some of their young friends thought it great fun at first; especially when they found it possible occasionally to guess correctly the thought of others present. But their enthusiasm died out, and soon the experiments were only pursued by Theo and Mr. Norman, who found themselves capable of reading each other's thoughts when definite things were clearly fixed in one mind and the other was in receptive mood.

So, although Norman never called at her house unless he was requested to do so for some experiment, yet a sort of intimacy was established between Theo and himself—an intimacy which was strengthened by Norman's services in her lately begun work among working women. She had, with the help of some of the women printers in her father's employ, started a Working-Women's Club for the benefit of all who earned their living by daily labor. In this club she would only accept the office of secretary, as that called for real service. The president's office was filled by one of the brightest members, the forewoman of a cloak-making establishment. As Norman had considerable experience in the formation of societies of working men, he was glad to be of use in suggesting forms for constitution, bylaws, resolutions, etc., and advising as to the study of parliamentary forms in conducting their meetings.

At first Mr. Staples had looked with suspicious disfavor upon Theo's friendliness toward Oliver Norman, but after spending two or three evenings with them, and observing Theo's unconscious attitude of social superiority, and Norman's evident absorption in his finely spun theories, he ceased to be alarmed.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Blaze of the Vulture's Eye.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HARRIET W. SEEVER.

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WAS a girl eighteen years old then, just home from school, waiting around (all the villagers said) for my step-father to die and leave to me, the only relative,—his estate and fortune which amounted to a goodly sum in those days.

Some said I could not get along agreeably with my step-father, others went even further, explaining, as a cause for our disagreement, that I had a love

affair while away at school which he was trying to break up—but that's another story. The facts were, we were not congenial, as is too frequently the case, and during my three years' absence on the continent, he had made the acquaintance of a young aristocrat of an adjoining estate and had resolved, when I had completed my studies, we should marry, which was

for many reasons distasteful to me. So during my unfrequent visits home there was continual argument and very rarely I returned to school without some severe and even threatening talk which resulted in a vow that I should never go home again. However, as each vacation came I had forgotten (or tried to forget) the previous storms, and was only too glad to return again to the quiet restful country existence.

On this especial afternoon a ragged, dirty-looking individual shambled up the avenue and being the only one in sight, he asked me for a drink of water; after having made way with half of it he began to unload from his shoulders a huge bundle and proceeded as all peddlers do to exhibit his wares. Though I had nothing in particular to do, I did not want to be bothered with examining his array of useless trinkets and while I was shaking my head and expostulating I noticed he dropped accidentally into the half glass of water, what appeared to be a smooth, round greyish colored stone, and the next moment the whole tumbler was illumined with a brilliant red light.

Immediately I inquired what sort of a thing it was, but he knew scarcely more about it than did I, except that a few months before, when he was a minor servant in the German court, one of the maids had said it was some little heirloom and had given it to him, saying "as long as this remains as it is you will know I am constant."

The peddler was as amazed as I at the sudden change in the stone—and believing then in the unconquancy of his love, he angrily threw it into the hedge and muttering to himself picked up his traps and went his way.

A few days later father found the little thing and after amusing ourselves with watching it blaze for awhile he put it into his pocket and the incident entirely slipped my memory, until a short time after it was brought to my mind, by this article in one of our papers:

"Body of a man, probably a German peddler found on the road between A—and B—. Death due to heart failure."

Sultry August passed and then September much in the same way as all my vacations went. I was either left entirely to myself or else continually nagged and stormed at by my poor gouty old father, and the day set for my return to school was hailed with delight. The morning came at last, my trunk was already on its way to the little stage depot. I was only waiting for my father to come down to his breakfast and have the farcical, though necessary ceremony of leave taking over, when all at once the man who had gone to wake him came crying through the corridor, "The Master is dead! The Master is dead," and true enough it was. I hastened to his room dazed by this startling news, and there he lay as though in a profound slumber. Physicians were summoned but all in vain, and "heart failure" was pronounced the cause.

Even the most disliked relative or connection, have we only one, becomes in a way dear to us when we feel we have lost our last family tie, and for one brief moment I shed the truest tears of remorse and shame that I could not undo many things of the past. My prospective return to the school was indefinitely postponed. After the funeral the property had to be settled, and then it was my severest trial came. This young neighbor who had become the boon companion of my father asked to have his body exhumed and examined, and for reasons which I never knew, the body was removed and the medical examiner pronounced it a case of *slow poisoning*. As he was not addicted to any opiate habit, tobacco smoking or any thing of that sort, I could not believe but what it was, as they had first said, simply heart failure, and I was the more stunned with the intelligence that I was under arrest for his murder!

Those days are shrouded in such gloom, I remember nothing except that there was insufficient evidence to convict me, while circumstances were against me; I was acquitted, though hundreds of fingers pointed at me in shame and disgust as I left my home, with our old housekeeper, to travel, perchance forget.

Two years after—in one of the gardens of Vienna, I overheard a familiar story a man was telling for the amusement of a few chance acquaintances. He mentioned my stepfather's name, then *mine*, and as he concluded, he drew a tumbler of water toward him and dropped into it what sounded like a pebble, adding: "This the codger carried in his pocket and gave to me only the day before he died, and, it developed such peculiar phenomena that until recently for fear of losing it I have kept it locked in my chest, in hopes some day to find out what it is." And turning slightly I saw my father's former companion, and in the glass, before the group of listeners, was the same red glare which so angered the peddler that summer afternoon. I drew my veil closer and prepared to withdraw, when the young man speaking apparently fainted. Restoratives were administered to no avail, and before a doctor could reach him his pulse had stopped.

In the excitement of caring for him, all else was forgotten, and seizing the opportunity I took the stone from the glass and hurried to the street. It did seem as though nothing but death had been the lot of all who had kept the little stone-like trinket and I began to fear

THE NEW ISSUE IN TEMPERANCE.

"WHISKEY MEDICINES."

THE VOICE.

The Leading Temperance Paper. Sounds the Call to a New Crusade in the Following Article.

"ANOTHER HEAD ON THE HYDRA."

"It is time attention was drawn to a form of alcoholic traffic that seems to have been overlooked by those engaged in the crusade against the rum power. If, as is believed and taught, alcohol is most dangerous when it fights in ambush, if it is most to be dreaded when it finds its first entrance to the system in the pleasant sauces and dishes of the home, then the form of alcoholic traffic in question is doubly dangerous, for it comes in the guise of medicine and attacks a system prepared by weakness to easily surrender to the assault. In many

PATENT MEDICINES

which are largely consumed throughout the country, by all classes of people, there is a percentage of alcohol which puts them on a level with beer, rum, and whiskey as intoxicants. It is the smallness only of the dose prescribed which prevents a prompt recognition of the intoxicating effects of these so-called medicines by those who use them.

"It is safe to affirm that they are

MEDICINES IN NAME ONLY.

Their chief value lies in their alcoholic effect as a stimulant. In fact, those who know, attribute the benefits ascribed to this class of medicines wholly to the stimulative effect of the alcohol they contain. They are used largely by persons not in the habit of drinking liquors, and the little dose taken three or four times a day is as stimulating to these people as his regular 'finger' of 'bitters' is to the regular liquor drinker.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

"What ought to be done at least is to compel every patent-medicine manufacturer to put on the wrapper of his bottle the quantity of alcohol it contains. That would at least leave people to exercise their own judgments. More than that, no paper truly interested in temperance reform should print the advertisement of any alcoholic medicine. It should be the duty of every temperance organization and branch in the country to look into this question, agitate it, and deal with the facts just as earnestly and as honestly as other facts have been dealt with."

Appreciating the gravity of the issue raised by the strong statement of facts made in the foregoing article, we wish to call general attention to the fact that Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription contain

NO ALCOHOL, NO WHISKEY, NO INTOXICANT OF ANY KIND.

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While the negative features of Dr. Pierce's medicines may only interest some of the readers of this article, the positive features of these medicines must be of interest to every one. The great value of "Golden Medical Discovery" in the cure of diseased or deranged conditions of the stomach and digestive and nutritive organs is testified to by tens of thousands who have found health and healing in this great remedy. The "Discovery" increases the action of the blood making glands, and by curing the diseases which corrupt and cripple the stomach and digestive and nutritive organs, it enables a full and pure supply of blood to be sent to every part of the body.

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there was something uncanny in its makeup. So I called a cab and drove to the nearest chemical laboratory where an eminent chemist, after examining it a moment, exclaimed wildly, "Marvelous! and have you not read in German folk-lore of 'the Blaze of the Vulture's Eye?'"

Then laying the eye on the window he proceeded to tell me that over a hundred years ago in Vienna there lived an alchemist, who for some wrong done him by the Emperor sought revenge. The vulture's eye was known to be extremely absorbent, so taking the eye balls from fifty or more of these birds, he soaked them for years in some mixture he secretly compounded, which if kept in continued contact with the body was a most deadly poison. These he gave as talismans to the Royal Household proving their inert power by showing the effect of water at a certain temperature poured over them. (The water caused a slight chemical reaction). He moreover stipulated that they must be worn constantly in order to have the desired effect.

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The cause was investigated, the chemist put to death by his own method, and the "talismans" were all—and just at that moment came a flash and a blaze as a wee ray of the warm noon sun (shining on the sill where the eye had been carelessly laid for the moment), had caused the final chemical re-action, and the Vulture's eye blazed for the last time.

A CLOSE CALL.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY GUY E. MITCHELL.

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W HILE lounging on my couch late one night in Nicaragua, smoking a last few whiffs before going to bed, I was roused into action by hearing a terrific squealing in the pig pen a short distance back of the ranch house, followed by a deep-toned roar and some lively shouting in Spanish. I grabbed my heavy shotgun loaded with slugs and ran out, but was too

late by far for a shot, as his majesty, the jaguar, was by that time several hundred yards away. The pigs, however, were safe. Fortunately for them Alvarez was just stirring up the embers of his camp-fire preparatory to roasting a couple of bananas for a light bedtime lunch, when his keen eye caught the dark form of the jaguar as he slipped along to the pig pen, and snatching up a glowing ember, he rushed out there just as the jaguar was gathering for a spring into the pen and the pigs were screaming with fright.

I was making a hunting visit of a couple of months at Senor Montigo's banana plantation on the Escondido River, Nicaragua, and as I had been unable thus far to bag a jaguar, I determined to make a great effort in the morning to capture this one's skin. It had rained heavily during the forenoon; the weather promised fair for the morrow, but then one may always expect to get soaked along the Central American coast.

By daylight Alvarez, more eager than myself, and I were on the broad trail of the jaguar, his big footprints showing up plainly in the soft mud where he had jumped away from the pig pen, leading along the edge of the plantation, in and out among the bananas. We did not expect to find him very soon, but about a mile back of the plantation in the depths of the tropical forest his tracks merged in with those of hundreds of wild hogs, or peccary. These latter had been eating the palm nuts and their hoof tracks literally covered every inch of the ground. We searched very carefully but could find no other trail of the big cat than the one leading in among the peccary. At last Alvarez took a wide circuit around the spot where we had been hunting, and this time found the big tracks leading away, clear and distinct. I started forward keenly but the Nicaraguan declared that the tracks were not very fresh and must belong to another jaguar; yet he was sure they were the same footprints we had followed from the pig pen. There the tracks were, however, plainly before me, and I followed them along without paying much attention to Alvarez's speculations. I soon found them trending out toward the river, on which the ranch house was located.

"Well!" I thought, "that cat is just laying around here, bound to get those pigs whether or no; and with all these wild hogs around here too."

In one place the trail led over a stream. The stream itself was small, but during the heavy rainy season it had cut out a channel between banks twenty feet apart. This the jaguar had

cleared at a bound—a magnificent leap.

"This he-jaguar," declared Alvarez. "I think bad. Look here. Sharpen his claws on tree; tear bark."

"He was evidently hungry last night to try and steal the pigs so close to the house," I replied.

At last the trail struck the river, though a mile or more from the ranch house, and then proceeded along its banks, directly for the house, traveling in a well-worn path used by the fruit cutters. It was only a little past noon and I marvelled that the jaguar should come so near the house with the men working around, in broad daylight, but I walked along rapidly with my gun at full cock, expecting every minute to come face to face with a pair of glaring eye-balls and a great tawny skin, spotted with black. After I had traversed about half the distance to the house the Nicaraguan, who was behind me and seemed to have lost all interest in the hunt, said coolly:

"What you hurry home for? You hungry? This last night's track. I told you I knew this not fresh track."

Still half afraid to take my eyes from before me, I turned around to look at the man and then realized that we had been, ever since leaving the peccary tracks, following the old trail of the jaguar of the night before as he approached the ranch for his raid on the pig pen. To say that I was disgusted would be mild. I let the hammer of my gun down with a snap that almost exploded the cartridge, and walked along sullenly, picturing the game that would be made of me by Thurman and the others in the house, the former having refused in the morning to go on any "wild goose chase after jaguars," which he said never were around when you were ready to shoot them. It did not even arouse my admiration to see where the animal had jumped another stream not very far from the house, apparently alighting on the other side as lightly as a feather. The tracks led past the house and directly for the pig pen, but I had no further interest in them and was just entering the porchway and about to stand my gun up in unutterable disgust, when I heard a loud report a short way back of us.

"There's that lazy Thurman," I thought, "out shooting birds. I hope he kills something. I feel like killing something or some one myself."

In a few minutes in came Thurman covered with sweat and excitement.

"Hi there! you and Alvarez, come out here with me. I've shot something I want to show you. He's a bird."

"Well I supposed it was a bird when I heard your gun go off. Why didn't you bring it in?"

"Well there's something to show you about it. Come on both of you. Did you kill any jaguars?"

"No," I answered fiercely.

We followed him along a few yards from the ranch-house to a point where he had struck the creek across which the jaguar had made the leap, thus meeting our trail we had just traversed and I had trailed the jaguar right up to my starting point of the morning, when there near the bank of the creek, lay a great dark body stretched out motionless, an immense dead jaguar.

"How's that?" Thurman said modestly. "I only had one load in my gun, too."

"Whew! Bully for you, old man!" I cried, forgetting my resentment and disgust at sight of the noble game, yet wishing it had been brought down by my own shot. "But this beats all. Why, we came along here not fifteen minutes ago."

"We lucky," Alvarez said quietly. "That brute trail us instead we trail him. Good thing we walk fast along here; beat him in. He catch us, make spring. He hungry; look how lean."

"Well," Thurman said, "I had an exciting time of it and he came pretty near getting all my nerve, if not my skin. I started out up the creek a few minutes ago with my shot gun, when you passed and so did not call to you for fear of scaring it. You had hardly gone by when I saw through a little glade in the brush this fellow loping along on your trail and cutting the air with sweeps of his tail. He evidently suspected something for he stopped an instant and gave me time to sling out my shells containing bird shot and jam in a couple of brass shells loaded with four and a half drachms of powder and big slugs. The stream lay between me and the jaguar, and just as I snapped the breech of my gun shut he came out on the bank and saw me. He looked as big as a house and his eyes glared at me horribly but I had a bead on him and as he paused I pulled the trigger. Nothing but a snap resulted and then I remembered that these shells had been wet. The beast gave a toss of his head and crouching low, sprang out into the air toward me. I was kneeling about twenty feet from the bank and it seemed as he came flying through the air as though he would reach me with that single leap, but he fell short luckily even of making the bank, catching it with his forelegs and claws; yet he was up on it in an instant, crouching for another spring. I said my prayers in case my second shell did not explode, and taking as steady aim as I could, pulled my other trigger, just as he rose grandly in the air on his leap. My big gun kicked me like a mule and I dropped it and rolled over to one side, grabbing for my belt knife to fight it out for my life. There was a tremendous thud as the body of the jaguar came down directly on my gun, showing how true had been his spring, and I lay there for a moment expecting to see the great paws raised to claw the life out of me. He was dead though; but I tell you I don't want any more such close calls as that."

HER LAST ASSIGNMENT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY JULIETTE M. HARRITT.

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ENRIETTA Fair was a pale, slim little thing with curly, reddish brown hair, big earnest grey eyes and a quiet, reserved manner which did not encourage familiarity. No one about the Leader office, except Mr. Jordansen, the managing editor, knew much about "the fair Henrietta" as some of her fellow reporters called her, but not in her hearing. It was understood, however, that this was her first attempt at newspaper work; that Mr. Jordansen was a friend of her family and had given her the place. She "did" receptions, weddings, teas and such affairs at which some of the young women, on the paper, turned up their noses in scorn of such weak stuff. They wanted to write about startling and sensational things; make big "scoops" and have their pictures—in impossible attitudes and absurd attire—in the many hued Sunday editions, their ideal newspaper woman being a "hustler" and "one of the boys."

Henrietta was just eighteen when she came back from her last term at an exclusive educational institution for young ladies to the cosy flat, in an old-fashioned house, in one of the quietest streets in New York, which had been ever since she could remember, the home of her mother, herself and faithful old Sarah, nurse, housekeeper, maid-of-all-work. Though much disappointed, Henrietta had not been alarmed when a letter came from her mother saying she was not well enough to see her little girl graduate—Mrs. Fair was always, more or less, an invalid—and was quite unprepared to find her mother really ill. Even the young girl could see that the illness was more of the mind than body and insisted upon knowing the cause. She was told that, from being comfortably well off they had become, through the failure of a firm having charge of their financial affairs, almost penniless; that, save for a couple of hundred, or so, in bank, their furniture and personal belongings, they had nothing at all.

"And, what is to become of us, my darling child, I don't know," concluded Mrs. Fair, hopelessly.

"Don't worry, mamma dear," said Henrietta, soothingly, "I will take of you, never fear. It would be a pity—after going to school all these years—if I could not make a living for three women. I am going down, this moment, to beard dear Mr. Jordansen in his den and make him give me something to do for the Leader. Even if I could teach I wouldn't like to, but I've always thought I'd like being a newspaper person," and, marching off, with the fearlessness of inexperience, accomplished her object.

Born and brought up in the same quiet old town in the heart of the Empire state, Stephen Jordansen—some fifteen years the older—had known Mary Fair from her babyhood and had hoped to make her his wife. Before he had put that hope into words she married George Warren, a handsome stranger, about whom she knew very little. An orphan, with ample means but no near relatives, she went, unhindered, to her fate and learned, all too soon, that her husband was wild, dissipated, unworthy the affection of any good woman and without any real love for the wife whose money he was flinging away. Twelve miserable months went by. Then George Warren was arrested for a crime committed several years before; tried, condemned and sentenced to prison for life. His wretched wife, seeking to hide her shame, resumed her maiden name and, with her baby girl, the remnant of her fortune and her nurse, Sarah—who would not be left behind—went to New York where she knew but one person, Stephen Jordansen, who had gone there soon after her marriage. He had been her firm friend, ever since, and Henrietta, looking upon him as a sort of uncle—she knew no other—did not hesitate to apply to him in this emergency.

Without allowing his partiality to be seen more than he could help, the managing editor made things easy for the young beginner and kept her near him when she was in the office. In this way, she saw more of Tom Danvers than was good for her peace of mind. Tom was a big, handsome blonde fellow, son of the principal stock holder of the concern and a great friend of Mr. Jordansen. He was supposed to be studying law but spent considerable time writing rather clever articles which the editor—secretly proud of his pupil—professed to criticize, severely. The young man was very nice to Henrietta but too deeply in love with another girl to suspect the growing infatuation of his friend's protegee.

One day he brought two ladies to see Mr. Jordansen, from whom they received a warm welcome. The younger, a tall, slender brunette with soft dark hair, was Miss Katherine Vinsen, the motherless daughter and only child of Peter Vinsen, the several-times-millionaire. The other, Mrs. Von Arnheim, a stately, handsome lady of middle age, was Miss Vinsen's aunt and chaperone. Henrietta, coming in to speak to her friend, hesitated in the doorway. Mr. Danvers shook hands with her, drew her forward and said:

"Miss Vinsen, I want you to know Mr. Jordansen's friend, Miss Fair—"

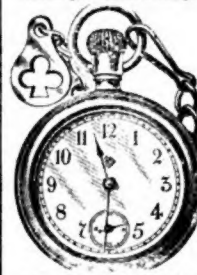
"And," interrupted Henrietta, "one of his reporters."

She had seen, at a glance, that the young lady—whom she knew, by sight, as one of the leading belles of the season—was something nearer than a friend of Mr. Danvers, and resolved that there should be no misapprehension as to her own position.

"Indeed," laughed Miss Vinsen, her black eyes meeting the upturned grey ones as she held out her daintily gloved hand. "And, what

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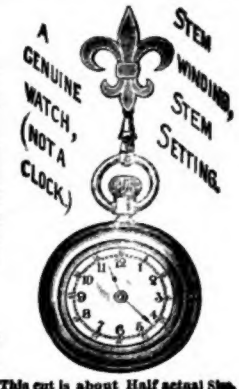


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does a little girl like you find to report?"

"Nothing very important, as yet," replied Henrietta. "Only weddings, receptions and such things. I hope to do less frivolous work, sometime."

"Just now," declared Miss Vinsen, a little flush tinting her olive cheeks, "I find 'such things' rather important. Auntie and I—my aunt, Mrs. Von Arnheim, Miss Fair—have been working very hard for some tableaux we are giving to-morrow night, for a pet charity. Won't you come and write them up? There will be dancing afterward, and I am sure you will enjoy that. Please, Mr. Jordansen, tell Miss Fair she must come, and don't you fail us either. We would be awfully disappointed if you did."

Mrs. Von Arnheim added a pleasant word or two, then they all said good-by and went away.

"That is the girl Tom Danvers is going to marry," remarked Mr. Jordansen, very busy at his desk. He did not care to meet Henrietta's eyes just then. He had realized, all at once, that he was much to blame for having allowed a young, impressionable girl to see so much of Tom Danvers—lovable fellow that he was—and deeply regretted his thoughtlessness. "It is a splendid match; Katherine is one of the nicest girls I know. Tom is an awfully good fellow and they are evidently very deeply in love."

"Yes, indeed," assented the girl, brightly. "That is as plain to be seen as that Miss Vinsen is exceedingly beautiful. But, I came in to ask which of these weddings I shall do. I can't be in three places, so far apart, at the same hour, you know."

"Take the Ward-Damon affair. That is most important, and be sure, Henny, to go to the Vinsens, to-morrow night. They are people worth knowing; their house is very beautiful; the pick of society will be there and I know you will have a good time. Say all the nice things possible, about the folks in the tableaux—that's all Katherine really cares to have said—and when they are over, fix up your account and give it to me. I want you to stay for the dancing. Do you need any money for fixings? You are the only little girl I have, you know."

"Not a cent, thank you, dear Mr. Jordansen," replied Henrietta. "Mamma fixed me up, finely, before the crash—planning to give me a nice time, last summer—and lots of my things have never been worn. I fancy I'll look all right, so far as clothes are concerned, but can't imagine any one wanting to dance with me. I'll have my copy ready for you and will try to do my best to please the very best man I know," and she went out, sadly torn between a desire to see Tom Danvers and Miss Vinsen again, and dread of the pain the sight would give her.

It was a trifle late when she presented her card, next evening, at Mr. Vinsen's—her mother had been less well than usual—and the first tableau was "on" when she shook hands with Miss Vinsen and her aunt at the door of the superb ball room overflowing with Gotham's best people in their best clothes and finest jewels. Miss Vinsen, radiant in pale rose color with diamonds clasping her fair throat and gleaming amid the dusky waves of her

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hair—gave Henrietta a friendly smile; said how pleased she was to see her and added:

"This is my cousin, Mr. Von Arnheim, Miss Fair"—presenting a good-looking young fellow about her own age—"he will take care of you. Carl, find Miss Fair a good place; tell her who's who and see that she has lots of partners for the dance."

"Count me one of them, please, Miss Fair," begged Danvers, her little hand in his for a moment before Carl, regarding his charge with much approval, led her away.

She was looking very pretty in her dainty white evening gown with a strand of pearls about her neck and an unwonted color in her cheeks. Mr. Jordansen gave her a look of fatherly pride as she and Carl slipped into some seats, half screened by a curtain, where the young man proceeded to make himself useful as well as very amusing. He knew everybody; told her who were the notables; helped jot down descriptions of costumes and kept a running fire of whispered comment which Henrietta would have thoroughly enjoyed if she could have kept her thoughts and glance from straying toward the beautiful mistress of the mansion and the lover bending his fair head to whisper in her ear.

When the curtain was drawn on the last pose, Carl took Henrietta upstairs and Miss Vinsen's maid showed her into Miss Vinsen's boudoir; asked if she could do anything more then re-joined the other maids, in the hall, where they were peeping at the company. Henrietta, settling herself in a big easy chair, began her task but had written only a few lines when a sound in the bedroom beyond startled her. Looking up, she saw in the mirror before her, a dark, rough-looking, black bearded man, with ragged hair drawn down over his brows, picking up something from the dressing table. She tried to slip out without attracting his attention but he saw her and, with a smothered oath, caught her as she reached the door. Her scream was half stifled by a blow from the butt of a revolver which, in the struggle, was discharged, the bullet entering the breast of the burglar. Immediately the room was filled with shocked and startled people. The man was dead and Henrietta only just alive. Miss Vinsen, with tears streaming down her cheeks and heedless of her rich gown, took the poor little head, with its blood matted curls, on her lap.

"Poor mamma," murmured the girl, faintly, "what will become of her?"

"I will care for her, my darling," promised Mr. Jordansen, kneeling beside her. "But, don't give up, dear child. Live for her and for us."

A shadowy smile flitted across her lips and they thought that she had ceased to breathe, but, once more, she opened her eyes, and with her whole heart in them, looked at Tom Danvers.

"Kiss me," she whispered. "She won't mind, just once," and, as he pressed his lips reverently to hers, sighed and passed away.

As the burglar was carried out, Mr. Jordansen saw his face.

"My God," he muttered, "it is George Warren! Her father!"

A CAT ON THE STAIRS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY AUBERTINE W. MOORE.

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DOROTHY Barbour had a great desire for an adventure. When she was bidden to the home of her forefathers to visit her mother's maiden sister, Miss Constance Pringle, who lived there alone with the household servants, she hoped that one might at last be hers.

The Pringle mansion was known as the Castle on the Heights, because of its palatial size and appearance and of its situation on a hill commanding a view of an exceedingly picturesque landscape. This ancestral home, scene of many adventures, would surely be an appropriate place for an adventure worth having.

But Dorothy did not feel very much like a heroine of romance or adventure, when she first set foot on the stairs leading from the lower hall to the drawing-room. There must have been a warp in the brain of the architect who planned them. A narrow passage off the extreme end of the broad hall in the center of the house led to the first flight, which could only gain a glimmer of light when the back-hall door was open.

On either side of the stairs there were ballusters, and at the top of the narrow flight was a narrow landing. The second flight began a little to the left of the first and led upward between two walls. On the upper landing the drawing-room door opened.

As Dorothy was ushered upstairs, on her arrival, the dismal darkness appalled her. She screamed outright as she stumbled on something soft near the top. The drawing-room door was flung open and Aunt Constance appeared.

"My poor kitten," exclaimed the good lady, hastening forward and gathering up the furry ball against which Dorothy had stumbled. "And my dear Dorothy," she added, throwing her disengaged arm about the shrinking girl.

On the threshold of the large, high-ceiled drawing-room Dorothy was met by quite a family of cats and kittens. The young girl concealed her aversion to them as best she could on learning how fond her aunt was of them.

Cats and kittens were forgotten when Dorothy looked out of the window in front of her, and caught sight of the blue dancing waters of a charming lake. A rolling lawn, dotted by

handsome trees led to it, and on the shore was an ornamental boat house which promised stores of pleasure.

She was not disappointed. The young people in the neighborhood had soon drawn her into all their sports, and Dorothy would thoroughly have enjoyed the days that followed but for those stairs and her Aunt Constance's pets. The entire house and especially the dark stairway seemed fairly to swarm with feline monsters.

One afternoon Dorothy returned from a boating expedition to find the mansion apparently deserted. She remembered that her aunt had spoken of driving and that there had been some talk of an outing among the servants.

To her astonishment the front door stood wide open. Usually the great brass knocker must be sounded before admission could be gained. The back door was closed. Darkness reigned supreme on the stairs. As Dorothy ascended, hideous possibilities suggested themselves to her.

Suddenly she heard something stir on the first landing. Pausing she listened. A stealthy cat-like footfall was plainly audible. Elastic though it was, it seemed heavier than that of an ordinary cat. It must be an uncommonly large animal. The next stair creaked as Dorothy put her foot on it, and the creature above sprang upward with lightning speed.

Dorothy was provoked with herself for feeling so alarmed. Gathering up her courage she resolved that a cat should not bar her out of the drawing-room. Having reached the first landing she drew from her pocket a match safe which, girl though she was, she always carried about with her, and struck a light.

A blood-curdling sound smote upon her ear. Dorothy staggered against the balluster protecting the outer side of the landing, while the match fell and was extinguished. What she heard was a hideous roar, followed by a long continued snarling growl. It was like a seething, bubbling cauldron of rage. Dorothy shivered with terror. Absolute helplessness overcame her.

She knew that the beast from which no barrier whatever separated her, was a creature far more to be dreaded than a cat. Her approach had goaded it to a frenzy that increased its strength in the same proportion that fright decreased hers. At any moment a monstrous, hairy mass might be precipitated against her, and cruel claws might tear her flesh.

Dorothy was in the midst of a thrilling adventure, but she was not in a condition to realize it. Not to be able to see in moments of supreme dread is horrible. Instinctively Dorothy struck another light. The same demoniacal roar as before woke the echoes of the deserted mansion. Although quivering like an aspen Dorothy clung to her match. Its flickering rays cast a glimmer on the upper landing. A sight was revealed that made Dorothy's flesh creep with horror.

Crouched against the far corner of the wall, the back arched, the hair bristling, the eyes like balls of fire, was an object resembling a black cat of gigantic proportions. It was a black panther. As in a dream, Dorothy remembered hearing of a circus, about a mile distant. It was there all the servants, except the coachman who was driving Aunt Constance, must have gone. Their excitement would account for the neglect of the front door. The panther had unquestionably escaped from the menagerie.

Dorothy remained pressed against the balluster. The only motion she made was to strike match after match, in view of keeping the dread foe in sight. Soon her safe would be empty. What should she then do? She dared not move. All at once, she became conscious of a faint step. A strong young voice, in a peculiar, purring tone, was heard saying:

"Keep still, you who are alone. I am coming."

Not until the new-comer had reached the first landing did Dorothy dare turn her head. In spite of the ghastly situation in which she found herself, her attention was at once riveted on the figure, with lighted lantern in hand, that approached her. It was that of a boy of about her own age—that is not more than sixteen—clad in the motley garb of a beast-tamer. He was a powerfully built lad, with the form of a gladiator and the face of an inspired hero. His cheeks were flushed, his dark eyes shone with wonderful brilliancy, and a wealth of curly hair tumbled over his noble forehead.

"The panther got away from me. I tracked him here. I saw you enter," said the youth, in the same soft, purring tones Dorothy had at first noticed.

"Take you the lantern," he continued, not varying the peculiar mode of speech, which is one of the beast-tamer's weapons. "But wait a moment," and he pushed a slide in front of the flame so that but a slender streak of light, sharp as a dagger, escaped from the lantern, which he gave Dorothy. "Aim the light directly at his eye," said the boy.

Dorothy did as she was bid. The object of the command was at once apparent. The panther closed his eyes as though hurt, and his roar gave place to a snarling moan. Prostrating himself on the landing so that the upper portion of his body touched the first step of the second flight, the young beast-tamer glided snake-like toward the panther.

In his left hand he grasped a huge piece of meat, which he held far in front of him. His right hand clutched a noose of leather and wire. His movements were accompanied by the monotonous, murmuring, gurgling sound heard from the first.

"Push back the slide," said the beast-tamer, as soon as his face was on a level with the upper landing. "Throw the full light above, and be on your guard when I begin to come down with him."

His eyes were fixed on the panther. The monster had stretched out his long neck, and was sniffing the air. Evidently he had scented the meat. Noiselessly the beast-tamer's right hand was drawing nearer and nearer the panther until it touched the beast's head.

Once more there rang out the deafening roar that had at first paralyzed Dorothy. This time it was more infuriated than before. Now the youth sprang to his feet, holding with outstretched arm a struggling palpitating load, suspended from a leather strap. Panting, with wide-open, glittering eyes, and exhibiting marvelous strength, the young beast-tamer looked like a hero of light who had overcome and was bearing away captive a demon of darkness.

"Give me plenty of light as you go down," said he to Dorothy. "Keep your distance."

Dorothy began the descent backwards, casting the lantern's glow on the boy's pathway. The panther dangled from the noose was wildly clawing the air. Soon it grew quiet, and the boy attempted to support it from behind with his left hand. He did not wish

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wholly to strangle this costly possession of his employers. Perhaps too, the weight was overtaxing even for his muscular arm. As he touched the panther's hide, the beast struck out violently with its right fore paw. A sharp cry escaped the boy's lips, sounding all the more piteous from the evident effort to suppress it. "You are wounded!" exclaimed Dorothy. "Go on," gasped the boy, hoarsely. "Go on—but quickly—quickly."

By this time the ground floor hall was reached, and through the open front door a keeper from the circus was seen. At the end of the long gravel walk was a menagerie cage on wheels, drawn by horses.

"Thank God!" fervently ejaculated the boy. A crowd had assembled, and in the midst were the servants. There was a general scattering as the beast-tamer appeared with his burden.

This was soon deposited in the cage. As the keeper closed the door the young hero sank exhausted to the ground. In an instant he looked up, his lips white as marble, and murmured:

"Remove the noose. Pour water over him. He is not dead. And see to the cage door. I told you it was not safe."

The keeper to whom these words were addressed mumbled something to the effect that he had missed the panther, discovered its whereabouts and brought the cage forthwith. He took to himself the glory of the capture, and paid no heed to the young beast-tamer. But Dorothy saw that the boy had swooned away, and that the blood was flowing fast from his arm.

She promptly sent for water and for a doctor, and tied her handkerchief about the wound until help should come. As the keeper moved off with the cage Miss Constance Pringle appeared on the scene. Flinging herself into her aunt's arms Dorothy then gave way.

The situation was soon made clear to Miss Constance who felt that enough could not be done for the young hero who had rescued her niece from a horrible fate. She visited him in the hospital where he was carried as soon as he could be moved, and speedily discovered that by birth and breeding he was above the position in which circumstances had placed him.

On his recovery the good lady obtained for the grateful youth a subordinate place on the railroad, with a salary far beyond what he was earning in his hazardous calling. It was a position that afforded ample opportunity for advancement, and Miss Constance and Dorothy had the satisfaction of seeing the former beast-tamer work his way to a post of trust.

When the war with Spain broke out the youth—then nineteen—enlisted in the navy. After peace was declared Miss Constance was the recipient of a Spanish flag, captured by her protegee from a lighthouse near Santiago. He sent her, he wrote, his first prize, in token of his undying gratitude to her for lifting him out of a hateful life.

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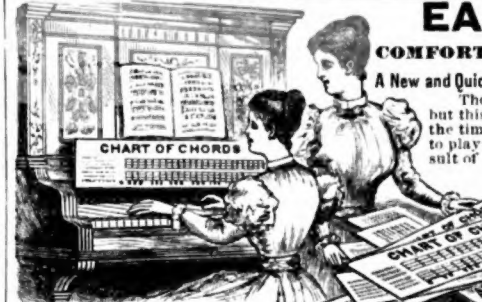
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Men, Women and Things.

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The Mayor of the greatest city in the world is a most important person with almost the state and circumstance of a European monarch. He holds his office for one year and during that time has the rank and precedence of an English earl. The present Lord Mayor is Sir John Moore, who was installed in his office in November. In 1894, he was Sheriff of London and at the expiration of his term in that year the honor of knighthood was conferred on him. He comes of a sturdy old English family of the Lancashire town of Stockport. Here his father was closely identified with the great institution, The Stockport Sunday School, which is the largest and most perfect of its kind in the world. The Lord Mayor is an active business man who has made himself widely known through his sustained fight against food adulteration. He is a merchant prince but has also a retail business in tea and coffee. He has several shops and one may purchase from the Lord Mayor a quarter of a pound of tea or a thousand chests of a hundred pounds each. His principal shop is in King William's street and is like the queer old places which the pen of Dickens has made famous. The window is filled with tea chests and tea canisters. The dingy shop behind is filled by a long counter and a line of salesmen busy weighing out tea. In a small office back of this busy scene sits the man with care-worn face who is busy with the civic duties of the old city of London. Sir John is a widower. His only daughter, Mrs. King Farlow will discharge the onerous social duties that devolve upon a Lady Mayoress. There are eight sons in the Moore family. The office of Lord Mayor is a very difficult one to fill but Sir John Moore is more the type of an old time Mayor than any one who has filled the chair in recent years.

When we officially acquire the Philippines one of our nearest neighbors will be the Mikado Mutsuhito. Thus the latest civilization in the world will extend its power side by side with the oldest—for the oldest political dynasty in the world is that of Japan, the Emperor being the one hundred and twenty-first of his line. The present Emperor, whose name means "gentleman," was born in 1852, at about the time that Perry opened the way for our first treaty with the Japanese. He was born in the sacred city of Kyoto, the second son of the Emperor Komei. His mother's family had for years furnished the leading statesmen of Japan. The young "Son of Heaven" was brought up in all the fantastic luxury and time-honored observances of ancient Japan. In 1860 he was declared heir to the throne and in that time he has seen Japan leap from the Orient to the Occident in its ideas of government and political economy. To-day his subjects are burning with restless patriotism. Enterprising, ambitious, progressive, they hope to make the island empire one of the first powers of the world. The united empire of Japan extends from the northern fogs to the tropics and comprises the Loo-Choo Islands, once claimed by China, the Bonin Archipelago, Formosa and the Pescadores, ceded from China, and the Kurile Islands. In 1867 Mutsuhito ascended the throne. The official designation of his reign was the word Meiji, which means "enlightened peace or civilization." A new government was formed and the Mikado came from behind the screen and in person attended the meetings of the new council. By the new constitution it was agreed that a Diet should be convoked, that the actions of the new government should be decided by public opinion, that the old customs of seclusion should be abolished and that educated and trained men from other nations should be invited to come to Japan. These sweeping reforms were gradually made although it was not for twenty-one years that the promise of a representative government was fulfilled. The Constitution of Japan was promulgated in 1889 and to-day the government follows very closely the

model of Great Britain. The Emperor, reared in all the seclusion and tradition of the old regime, is the leading spirit in the new. Forty-six years of age, in sound mental and physical condition, with strong common sense and a spirit devoted to his people's welfare, Mikado Mutsuhito is the ruler of an enlightened people. Monogamy is not yet an institution in Japan although the increased sense of moral responsibility among the Japanese must bring the condition in time. The Empress Haruko is childless. Ten of the Emperor's children have lived. The Prince Imperial Yoshito is the third son of the Emperor, his mother being Yanagiwara Aiko. He was proclaimed heir to the throne in 1887.

Maud Powell is one of the great women violinists of the world. She is an American girl whose home was in Aurora, Ill. After hearing Camillo Urso play she resolved to master the violin. She studied four years in Chicago and then came some years of successful study in Leipzig. From there she went to Paris, where she succeeded in entering the class of the great master, Dancela. Eighty pupils applied and but twelve could be accepted. Maud Powell was unanimously given first place. Two years of study and she made her London debut to be at once given a foremost place. Miss Powell, after a successful season in America has returned to Europe where she will spend two more years in study.

Two great queens have passed from the fierce light that beats upon a throne during the last year. Their characters furnished a marked contrast as did their different fates. The story of Empress Elizabeth of Austria is one of romance and tragedy while that of Queen Louise of Denmark is the story of a quiet, domestic German life. Queen Louise was born in 1817 and was nearing her eighty-second birthday at the time of her death. She was the daughter of a petty German Prince, the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel. In 1841 she married the fourth son of another German duke. It was not an ambitious marriage but rather one of love. The two young people were often in severe financial difficulties in spite of their modest manner of living. In 1863 by a turn of Fortune's wheel the penniless German duke became the almost equally penniless King of Denmark with the title of Christian IX. Six children were born of the marriage and Queen Louise was literally mother-in-law to half the crowned heads of Europe. Princess Marie Dagmar married Alexander III, the late Czar of Russia, and is now Empress Dowager of that great empire. Alexandra "Sea King's daughter from over the sea" is the much beloved Princess of Wales, some day to be Queen of England. The third son is George I. of Greece, having been elected to that throne by the people of Greece. Another son, the Crown Prince of Denmark will succeed his father on the throne. All in all, Queen Louise had had a most pleasant and successful life journey. She was literally a mother of queens. Gifted to an unusual degree with good, plain every day commonsense, simple yet dignified, her influence was wide spread and always for good. Her influence with the late Czar of Russia was known to be great and many affairs of state were discussed at the family gatherings in Denmark. The death of Queen Louise throws half of Europe into mourning as sincere as it is respectful.

Mrs. Virginia Reynolds is a young American woman who has been elected to membership in the Society of Fine Art of France as the result of one exhibition of her work. This exhibition was her first public one and consisted of a case of fine miniatures shown in 1897 at the Champs de Mars Salon. The unprecedented honor of an immediate election to the Societe Nationale des Beaux Arts followed this demonstration of the unusual talent of the young American woman. This seemed to be success at one bound, but years and years of painstaking work preceded the success. Mrs. Reynolds was born in Chicago, but on the death of her father moved with her mother into a small Illinois town. Her mother was a musician and Mrs. Reynolds was taught to play al-

most before she could read. At the age of thirteen she was playing the church organ and copying portraits from photographs. She studied for a year in the Chicago Art Institute and then with her mother went abroad to study music and painting. Over practice brought on a serious trouble with the muscles of the hand and Mrs. Reynolds was forced to give up her music. Then came her marriage and it was at her husband's suggestion that she turned her attention to the delicate art of miniature painting. She has made a great success as a teacher of this art. Eleven from her class of thirteen girls succeeded in having miniatures accepted at the Paris Salon. Last summer in Holland Mrs. Reynolds worked out of doors selecting the peasants as her models. Mrs. Reynolds is now in America where she will paint many miniatures of leading society women.

The late Empress of Austria has been one of the most romantic figures among the crowned heads of Europe. January first finds the Austrian Court still in mourning for its Empress, although for years she had been rarely seen at any court functions. Empress Elizabeth was one of the most celebrated beauties of her time, but she had refused to allow any picture of her to be made during the later years of her life so it is as she stirred the fancy of an older generation that we show her to the readers of COMFORT. Elizabeth Amelia Eugenie was the daughter of Duke Maximilian of Bavaria and the most beautiful princess in Christendom. To the petty court of her father came her cousin Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria, as a suitor for the hand of her elder sister. He saw the young Princess Elizabeth, fell deeply in love with her and would have no other for his bride and Empress. "It is too good to be true, I am such an insignificant little thing" said Elizabeth when the news was conveyed to her. Eight months later she became Empress of Austria. Her life at the Court of Vienna was not altogether a happy one even in her young days. A strong court faction was formed against the young Bavarian Princess. Three children, two daughters and a son were born to her. The self-inflicted death of the Crown Prince Rudolph was one of the many dramatic tragedies that have filled her years with sorrow and trouble. Her later years were passed in wandering over Europe and in living her life as best pleased her until the tragic end came from the knife of an Italian assassin at Geneva on September tenth. The wonderful display of the Aurora the night before the Empress was assassinated recalled to many minds the old superstitious legend of the "Fearful lights that never beacon Save when kings or heroes die."



Jotura Komura, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States is an exponent of the liberal culture that marks a new Japan. A graduate of the best universities of the island empire, he came to the United States in 1875 and entered Harvard. He graduated from that university in 1880. His five years' residence in America has made him thoroughly conversant with the affairs of this great nation. For the past eighteen years he has been closely identified with the diplomatic service of Japan. He was minister to China at the outbreak of the Chinese-Japanese war. When the Emperor chose him to succeed Toru Hoshi as Minister to the United States he was serving as assistant secretary of state. He has all the qualifications for a markedly successful service. He is highly educated, no stranger to the ideas, manners and customs of this country, and thoroughly identified with the government and thought of new Japan. Personally he is calm, dignified and self-contained. He unites the calm of the Orient with the quick thought of the average Yankee.

Sir Julian Pauncefote, G. C. B., G. C. M. G., Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of her British Majesty to the United States, is a typical Britisher of whom American people are decidedly fond. He has quietly won his way to a general liking during the ten years that he has represented Great Britain in this country. He came when we were not feeling particularly friendly to his country but during three administrations he has demonstrated his diplomatic ability. This ability has been gained by the slow steps by which England trains her men for service. Sir Julian began diplomatic life as the Secretary to the Secretary of State for the colonies. Then followed several years of practice as a lawyer in Hong Kong and then eight years as Attorney General of that Chinese Metropolis. In 1874, he was made Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands and in that same year he was knighted. Then he was called back to England as assistant under Secretary of Foreign Affairs. From that time promotion was rapid and honor after honor was heaped upon him. When we provided by law to raise our ministers to the rank of ambassadors, Great Britain was the first nation to take advantage of the change and Sir Julian, who was already Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, was raised to the rank of Ambassador. In 1894, he was made a Privy Councillor and in 1897 he received the Jubilee Medal. Sir Julian Pauncefote is a typical Englishman and his face bears a family resemblance to the John Bull of the cartoonist. He has personally managed most of the correspondence on the Behring Sea question and on arbitration, and it is his great regret that the principle of arbitration was not accepted by the United States and Great Britain. The British Embassy in Washington is the property of the British Government and bears the royal arms over its entrance. Sir Julian is fond of music and of the theater and like all Englishmen he is devoted to out-of-door sports. There have been rumors of his recall and it is but fair to say that when that event does take place it will be regretted by the nation at large.

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Editor's Note. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

\$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	\$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new cousin into the *Comfort* circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

George H. Jordan.	\$3.00
F. E. Halbert.	2.50
Mary E. Martin.	2.00
M. C.	1.50
C. S.	1.00

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

And now we are at the opening of another year, 1898, with its joys and its sorrows, its horrors of war, and the sickness and suffering attendant thereon, are all things of the past, and the pages of the new year—of the last year of the century—lie before us, fair and spotless. What shall be their record? How will they appear as we turn them backward for examination when 1900 comes peeping in upon us? Written all over they must be, with good deeds or bad; with efforts of helpfulness to others; of kind words fitly spoken; with honesty, sobriety, manliness and womanliness; or with the reverse. Which shall it be?

Our first letter this month is from Alabama, and those of us who are familiar with the "Sunny South" will recognize the truthfulness of this description of the colored dwellers there. Our correspondent says:

FORMING as they do a large part of the population in many of the Southern States it may be of interest to note a few of the traits and peculiarities of the colored people as found at the present time. One of the most noticeable traits is their cheerful and happy disposition. At work or play they are always in the singing mood. Given enough to satisfy to-day's wants they do not worry themselves about to-morrow. They have no ambition to become property owners. Land suitable for cultivation is cheap and can be bought on favorable terms, building material is not high, and in this climate it does not require any large outlay to secure comfortable and tidy homes, and yet we find them, with few exceptions, squatters on some wild tract of land, living in dilapidated cabins that hardly afford them shelter from the storm. Another trait that attracts attention is their devotion and attendance on public worship and prayer meeting. Every Sabbath day they fill their little churches, and it is often well toward midnight before they finish up the services. They are as well dressed and well behaved as any similar gathering of the white folks. On a week day evening the negro and his family will walk for miles through the woods to attend prayer meeting, no matter how dark and stormy the night. The service consists mainly of singing and prayer. The singing is very enthusiastic and sometimes quite melodious. The precepts and admonitions they receive from their pastors and teachers are all of that character that should lead them to a higher and better way of living. Now we should expect some good results from all this and no doubt it has a restraining influence, but some of these people cannot be made to understand that the ten commandments apply to them in any way. The Psalmist who said in his haste that 'all men are liars,' would not have qualified his assertion very much if he had been intimate with these people. Another trait that is observed in the colored people is their politeness and courtesy to every one, and more especially among themselves. Their use of the English language in conversation is often amusing. They appear to select the longest and most unthought-of words to express their meaning, and often they get sadly mixed up.

"One of the bright sayings of Mark Twain that 'a cauliflower is a cabbage with a college education,' might be applied to the negro race. It is evident, however, that it will require more than one generation of education and culture to transform them into intelligent and progressive citizens. The vices and irregularities acquired by the race during long years of servitude still cling to them. But there are influences at work, bidding them to 'leave their low-vaulted past,' and giving them nobler views and higher aims in life. There are educated and talented young colored men scattered through the South who are making it their life work to improve their race and fit them better to perform their duties as citizens."

Geo. H. JORDAN, Citronelle, Ala.

Now here is a letter from Annette Rosamond Muller, of South Amboy, N. J.; a very pleasant letter it is too, full of praises of our brave soldier boys in the late war with Spain, but it is crowded out, to my great regret.

Our next letter is upon the old Muller House in New York State. I wonder, by the way, if our cousin Annette Muller claims relationship there.

"On the top of a high hill, about two and a half miles west of Georgetown, N. Y., stands an old house known as the Muller House. It was built nearly a hundred years ago, by a wealthy Frenchman named Muller, who was obliged to fly from France for political reasons. On coming to this country he obtained a large tract of land from the Indians, a part of which is now known as the 'Muller farm.' This house, which is built of hewn black cherry timbers, is the only building now remaining of those erected by Muller, and is still in a good state of preservation. The timbers of which it is made are each twelve inches thick and eleven feet in length. They are placed upright, side by side, and dovetailed closely together, thus forming a solid wall. This was lathed and plastered within, and most carefully and elaborately finished. There were seven open fireplaces in the house, all finished in black marble. The house was beautifully finished and furnished with the richest of furniture in mahogany and other costly woods. But the most peculiar thing about it is that the cellar walls are seven feet thick. It is supposed that there is a secret passage entirely around the house within these cellar walls, but no one has ever been able to find the entrance to it.

"The surrounding grounds still show traces of their former beauty. The trout ponds and deer parks here once had no equal in the State. In the park are still to be seen immense maple trees growing in fantastic shapes, showing that they had once received great care and training. In the center of the park is a large open space across which the deer were driven while the hunters waited to get a shot at them. Muller never allowed his deer to be shot unless they were running across this opening.

"A little back of the house and within the woods is a swamp where grow a great variety of wild flowers, some of which are so rare as to be found nowhere else in the state.

"Not a member of the Muller family now remains here, and it is not known what became of them. Muller, himself, went back to France, leaving his wife and children in New York, and never sent for them. It is said that the wife resumed her maiden name, both for herself and her children, and hence the name of Muller became obliterated."

F. E. HALBERT, Cortland, N. Y.

Alice Heffengues must try again. This letter which she sends me is very pleasant, but I am sorry to say that I cannot give it a prize. Thank you for it, all the same, my dear.

George Johnson, with his account of a walnutting party, carries me back to my own youthful frolics, but his letter is far too long, and not of sufficient interest to all the cousins for me to publish. Send me a short one, George, on some really interesting subject, and see how quickly I will use it.

Now we have an account of a most curious amphibious animal, called the mud fish.

"A very curious link between fish and reptile, is the creature known as the mud fish. Although he partakes of the characteristics of both animals, he is classified as a fish on account of his scaly covering and rudimentary fins, which are in reality more like feet than fins, as they are used both to support the fish and direct his movements. Ordinarily sluggish, he can be very swift when occasion requires; moving rapidly backward and forward by means of his tail.

"In form, this strange fellow is long and narrow, mixed olive green and brown in color—a little lighter in some places—with dark irregular spots near the tail. There seems to be no trace of an ear, and the eyes are small and flat to the head, with a golden iris. He breathes both by lungs and gills, and comes to the surface of the water for air occasionally. During the eight months of the dry season in the tropical countries where the mud fish lives he lies at the bottom of deep morasses and half dried rivers, rolled in a kind of mud cocoon, in a state of torpidity. He leaves a hole at one end of the cocoon through which to breathe. Upon emerging from his cocoon, the animal is simply ravenous; and as he is a great fighter when aroused he will frequently attack, and even eat up a companion. Under ordinary circumstances his diet consists of small frogs, fish, worms, and vegetable matter.

"In the river Amazon in Brazil, where the mud fish was first discovered, he grows sometimes three feet long, but in other localities he only averages about two feet.

"Rice fields, which are in a quivering state of jellylike mud during the greater part of the year, contain quantities of mud fish, which at the end of the dry season the natives dig up and eat as a great delicacy.

"The mud fish is some times called the 'Paradox,' and is considered by scientific men to be the nearest approach known to a perfectly amphibious animal. Some specimens have been taken to Europe to raise, but with very little success."

MARY E. MARTIN, New York.

Mrs. George C. Goodyear, of Saginaw, Michigan, sends me a very interesting account of the reception tendered to the returning soldiers of Saginaw in September last, but it reaches me far too late for use.

Here is a letter from North Carolina, but election riots do not seem to disturb the busy life of this little place.

"Our beautiful little village, Faith, is situated six miles from the county-seat of Rowan County, on the granite belt, and it is very interesting to watch the men at work in the granite quarries, some drilling by hand, others by steam drills; here is a group of men making millstones, there others cutting curbing for street purposes, and still further on they are engaged in making paving blocks and sills for windows and doors; while near us men are feeding a large and excessively noisy stone crusher, which grinds up the granite as if it were loaves of bread, or something equally soft. One hundred car-loads of granite curbing are frequently shipped at one time from here to Raleigh.

"We have in our yard a beautiful grove which is often visited by Sunday School picnics and religious bodies needing a place for meetings. A large gospel tent has lately been erected there, and for a week a revival meeting has been going on in it. Crowds of people come from far and near both to these meetings and to the frequent picnics that come here, and all seem to enjoy their visit."

Mrs. CHARLOTTE E. WYATT, Faith, N. C.

Jennie Purviance, of Perryville, Ark., sends me a cheering word of appreciation of our page which is very welcome; she also gives me a half promise of a letter later, on some subject of interest. I am sorry not to publish her letter to shut-ins, on the subject of healing, but I receive so many letters of that kind that my space would be filled with them were I to give them room; so, as this is not a "Shut-in" page, I am obliged to refuse them all.

By the way, will my nephews and nieces please remember that, as this page is "made up" at least two months before it is published, it is therefore necessary that matters intended for any particular issue should be in my hands three months before it is to come out.

Now we have another bit of Virginia scenery laid before us. Truly, this proud old state is rich in its self aside from the remarkable men whom she has sent out into the world.

"Fifteen miles east of Lynchburg, Va., is a rock on the James river called Holcomb's Rock. It is one hundred and fifty feet high, and twenty-five feet in width. On the top it is composed of two large rocks and many small ones, and at the bottom it is at least sixty feet from the river; on top there is space of land one hundred yards long and four yards wide, that leads right on the rock. You can ride a horse so as to jump from the horse on the rock. It is a very pleasant place to visit on a summer day; there are several springs and many

shady trees around it. Among the trees that grow around it are spruce, pine and others. Most of the rock is covered with moss and around the edge there are many pretty wild flowers. It was a very famous place in ancient times, and is now. I have heard that it derived its name from an old slave man named Holcomb, who jumped over it."

ALMA E. HARVEY, Clifford, Va.

Here is a new Virginia cousin whom we are glad to welcome among us. He gives us a pleasant description of his home surroundings.

"I am just becoming a reader of *COMFORT* and would like to be admitted to your social circle. Our valley is known as 'Falling Spring Valley,' and derived its name from a large stream of water which falls over a precipice one hundred and ninety feet high. The big cliffs at these falls are grand. The rocks look as if they had been cut and built one upon another. Another picturesque spot is the 'Cress Lakes' where cress is gathered all winter and shipped to northern markets. These lakes are beautiful in winter when the earth is hidden by snow. Their water is warm, and ice was never known to form on them, though it is bitterly cold here. Our valley is somewhat hilly, but rich and fertile. It is about three miles wide and eighteen long, situated in the northwestern part of Virginia. The celebrated 'Hot Springs,' one of the most beautiful summer resorts in the State, are here. The 'Natural Well,' three and a half miles from Falling Springs, is a curiosity. I live on a farm one and a half miles from Falling Springs and the lovely cascades."

S. E. ROBINSON, Savannah, Va.

Now let us visit Luray Cave with another Virginia cousin.

"The Luray Cavern is nestled among the hills of Page County, Virginia. In the year of 1878 Mr. B. G. Stebbins of Luray wished to explore an old cave which was known to have existed there for years immemorial, and invited two friends to accompany him. They would not consent to this, but were willing to go in search of a new cave. So they went roaming over the hills for several weeks, without any result. One day they crossed the hill where the old cave was situated, and a short distance from its mouth they came upon a hole filled with bushes, weeds and stones, from whence issued a cool current of air. After much labor in clearing out the place one of the men was let down into the hole by a rope and proceeded some distance on foot until stopped by water.

"This discovery of the marvelous Luray cave, which has since been gradually revealed, Luray is now considered one of the most beautiful caverns in the world. Come into it with me and behold its wonders for yourselves. After a considerable descent we enter an immense room, and passing through it we come to the Vegetable Garden, so called from the strong resemblance of the



THE LURAY CAVERN.

rock formations within it to vegetables. Then comes the theatre and the gallery, and, passing over Muddy Lake on a plank walk, we reach the Fish Market; then on to Pluto's Chasm, the depth of whose black abyss has never been ascertained. Then there is the Bridge of Sighs, Titania's Veil, and Diana's Baths; also the Wet Blanket, which hangs high and always dripping water. The massive columns here and there are grand and imposing, notably so the Fallen Column. The Cathedral is a study in itself; its lofty dome and Gothic arches are an inspiration. The immense organ in one corner is another wonder, and when the guide strikes the pipes beautiful, deep, musical sounds reach the ear. Adjoining the organ are the chimneys, the sweetest ever heard. Passing through the Bridal Chamber we enter the Giants' Hall and the Ball-room. A beautiful white formation in the last named room shows the symmetrical figure of a young woman which is called Cinderella leaving the ball-room. Very near, hanging against the wall, is a lady's riding whip. Close by is the Cemetery, and beyond that the Fowl Market, where the formations bear a striking resemblance to fowls.

"Beautiful, crystal springs and lakes dot the cave here and there, while the limestone formations among which they are, assume such a variety of forms and coloring that one might easily imagine himself in a forest with tall trees, shrubbery, tall ferns, logs, and sparkling, limpid water everywhere about."

M. C.

A letter from our Montreal cousin shows us a pathetic bit of life in a convalescent Home for children. She says:

"Let me tell you readers about a small convalescent Home, situated on the banks of the St. Lawrence river. Eighteen is the greatest number that can be accommodated here at once, but as only non-contagious diseases are allowed there is rarely the full number here in winter; but in summer the beds are always full, and it is gratifying to see the color come into the pale, pinched faces of poor sickly little children, and to watch how, after a few days, they begin to run about and enjoy themselves.

"Let me tell you about a few of these little patients. E. M. was a dear little boy of three years, his mother dead, and his father a stoker in some large factory. Having no one to look after his boy the father took him with him to the factory. From the bad, confined atmosphere the poor child soon became ill, and so drifted into our Home. He was white as wax the day he was carried in and laid on his little cot, but fresh air, regular food and proper care soon told, and E. became the pet of the Home. Another boy had never slept in a properly made bed, and the poor fellow undressed and lay on the outside, gathering up the quilt as a covering. A little French boy cried when he first saw the bath, for he was afraid of being drowned in it. Another was a very funny little fellow, very careful of his clothes, and very much afraid that when taken away to the wash they would never be brought back again. One day he sat nearly an hour watching the clean clothes on the line for fear that some one would take away his stockings which he recognized hanging there."

M. S. B., Montreal, Canada.

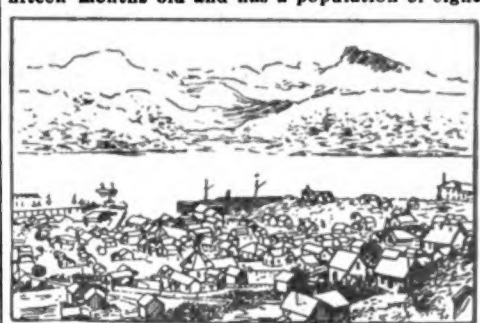
Below are extracts from letters written home last winter by a Texas boy who joined the army of seekers for gold in the far off land of Alaska. His sister sent them to us, thinking we would find them of interest.

"I sailed from Seattle, February, 1898, on the steamer Queen. We arrived at Victoria, B. C., on the 20th, and after two days there we began our trip on the ocean. We made one or two stops before reaching Juneau, but the weather was so cold that I did not venture ashore, the mercury standing at thirty degrees below zero. The scenery we passed was romantic and beautiful. Mountains covered with snow, huge icebergs and glaciers along the coast on one side of us and the deep blue sea on the other.

"Juneau, Alaska, is an old Esquimaux village and I was much interested in watching the Esquimaux with their dogs and reindeer pulling their sleds. It is too cold for cattle and horses here as they have snow and ice the year round, and in winter the days are only a few hours long. Our voyage ended at Skagway and when I saw all the snow and ice I began to wish I were at home.

"Skagway is situated in a deep canyon between two hills eight or ten thousand feet high. The sun only shines two hours a day now and I am told that

in summer it is dark only two hours. Skagway is fifteen months old and has a population of eight



JUNEAU, ALASKA.

thousand and very nearly half live in tents, as all the lumber used must be shipped from the United States.

"How I long to see dear old Texas again! To hear the birds singing and see flowers blooming instead of the bleak snow-covered mountains. The only timber here is the birch and cotton-wood and not much of either. Prices are very high and wages are good but there are more people here than there is work."

And now my space is filled, so with sincere wishes for a happy New Year to you all I will say good-by until next month.

AUNT MINERVA.

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\$1000 from U. S. Treas. (macerated money) FREE our Cat. and get \$1000 (made of \$1 to \$5000) \$3000 and Cat. 25c. Exchange & Mart, S. Washington, D. C.

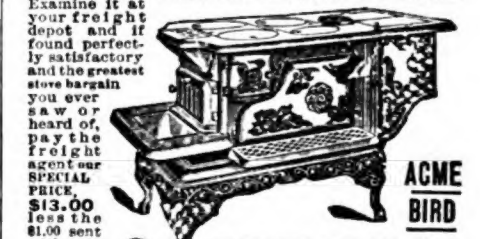
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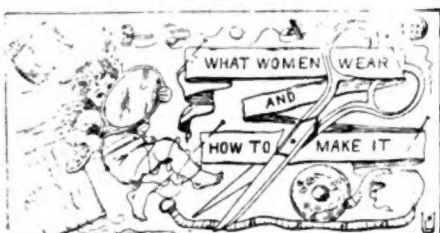
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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ADAME La Mode is taking one of her much needed holidays, leaving me, as her faithful chronicler, somewhat at a loss for startling news. Still, having my COMFORT readers constantly in mind, and my eyes and ears always open for the noting of trifles light as air, but in the end important, I have enough news to keep my lady employed and interested until my next budget, when things will have adjusted themselves more certainly, as far as modes go.

So it is that I can confide in you that among new goods are exquisite dress materials in lighter stuffs, where endless encircling tucks are simulated by interwoven lines of satin or silk, or a silk and wool mixture looking like braid. Apropos of which statement, it may be well to remark that all the stripes and tucks will be arranged to go round, and not down the skirt, though, perhaps, it is hardly kind to make short and stout folks unhappy in anticipation, for the reality will be bad enough when it arrives; however, there are always plain materials for them to fall back on.

Lace is as lavishly used as ever, both for the purpose of trimming and for the making of entire gowns, while perhaps the most notable innovation in the line of smart mid-winter costumes for dressy functions is the lace bodice having basques reaching almost to the knees and curving upward in a manner which has by this time become a familiar sight, inasmuch as it has distinguished all the fashionable capes and wraps of the past few months. A fetching new costume carrying out this idea has its skirt built of the finest and most supple cloth, in a tender shade of grey, the skirt distinguished by a deep flounce, which, instead of sweeping upwards at the back, as was the habit of the flounce for so long, has its highest point in the front, and then curves downward till, at the back, it is only about five inches deep. The effect is curious and is apt at first to be pronounced unbecoming, but it is really a most graceful arrangement and a most decided improvement.

This particular flounce of which I speak is arranged in deep pleats, opening outwards at the hem, an idea which is repeated in the rounded basques of the lace bodice. In fact the coat is all softly pleated, and held in at the waist by a folded band of white satin, which passes underneath the bordering pleats in the front, leaving them to hang loosely in something of fichu fashion from the pleated collar which falls over the shoulders. The concluding items of a vest and cravat of white mousseline de soie go to make up a distinctly novel dress. Smarter still is another gown, where the skirt of Parma mauve cloth has a curved flounce in white cloth, where many rows of gathered satin ribbon, in a delicate mauve coloring, are arranged in a particularly clever fashion. They appear again to decorate the open-fronted coat of white cloth, which has long, plain basques, with rounded fronts outlined with a double frill of mauve mousseline de soie. Then there are revers of white satin, edged with soft frills, and a vest of white lawn and lace crossed by two bands and rosettes of

and not likely to make one's figure look short or stumpy; still there is some danger for those at all inclined to stoutness, unless they are tall. All such will be wise to pin their affections to another new style, where bodice and skirt open with a scalloped edge, piped with velvet, over a vest and petticoat, where tiny pleats are arranged to form a series of V's. The Princess effect is broken by a narrow band of velvet at the waist finished by long sash ends, and there is a collar to match, which, however, is so narrow that it does not disguise the unrelieved tightness of the tucked sleeves. It is, on the whole, a graceful gown, and the continued lines of bodice and skirt give length to the figure.

The winter season has formally installed the Newmarket as a feature not to be overlooked by the woman who aims to be considered well-dressed. But it is an idealized garment, with little resemblance to the shapeless Newmarket of old. We have secured a sketch of an up-to-date garment, embodying all the new points, which consist chiefly of the circular flounce beginning with the revers and encircling the entire skirt, growing deeper and fuller at the back. The material is a soft, rich shade of tan Melton, with collar and cuff facings of black velvet. At the back, heading the two enormous pleats, are big velvet-covered buttons. Stitched straps are the decoration. This same style of coat is employed for evening and the opera, the back lengthening into an ample train and the entire thing fitted a trifle looser than for street wear.

And now, here is a frock which I am persuaded should be of practical use to you at the moment, being simple, yet sufficiently dressy for all occasions. The material is one of the fine, soft cloths in a beautiful shade of grey (grey you will observe is ultra-smart), the skirt nicely cut but perfectly devoid of trimming. The bodice has a jaunty little basque, shorter at the sides than at the back or front, and an arrangement of velvet ribbon running over the shoulders which is most becoming to the fig-



OF SOFT GREY CLOTH.

ure. The velvet is repeated at the shoulder, outlining the tiny cap of the sleeve, and at the waist where a cluster of handsome buttons in cut steel hold it in place. The guimpe is of yellow string lace over white satin, the tiny collar points and cuffs being of the same stuff. The vest is the goods in rather broad tucks.

For evening wear there are all sorts of dainty bodices, one of which I have chosen, as being among the smartest. The material is yellow crepe de chine over orange satin, the frills embroidered with orange and picked out with tiny jet sequins. Shirred bands decorate sleeves and waist alike.

Grey castor gloves are among the season's novelties and are the correct hand-covering of the moment. Pearl grey suede have superseded white gloves for smart functions. Elastic belts of jet, mock jewels, or cut steels are both becoming and smart. They may be had to match any costume.

A CURE FOR ASTHMA.

Asthma sufferers need no longer leave home and business in order to be cured. Nature has produced a vegetable remedy that will permanently cure Asthma and all diseases of the lungs and bronchial tubes. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases (with a record of 90 per cent. permanently cured), and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all sufferers from Asthma, Consumption, Catarrh, Bronchitis and nervous diseases, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail. Address with stamp, naming this paper. W. A. Noyes, 920 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

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is a bad thing for your own or your friend's front. We have a cute device with ring for holding any umbrella, and nice japanned iron cup to catch the water, and it can be placed entirely out of the way in any entry or hall. It does not take up any room and will always be a pleasure to you. You will surely want another to present to some friend when you have seen one. Send only 22 cents and we send one all charges paid. Try it and you will buy another. Address, SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

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A Pig Hunt in the Dark.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ISLEEP soundly, but how am I to convey to any one the smallest end of a notion how soundly? The concentrated slumber of an army of tops would be wakefulness itself compared to the deep sleep I go in for. I scorn exaggeration, and merely mention my somnolent powers to enable my readers to realize, at least faintly, what that noise must have been which woke me as I lay, one wet night, snugly unconscious of all sublimity matters beneath the roof of my bungalow in Malaya. "What the duce is up?" I exclaim, as struggling into wakefulness, I observe my friend H., hastily putting on his nether garments by the light of a tallow dip, stuck with a graceful slant into the neck of a black bottle.

"Pigs; that's all," is his laconic reply. "Come, jump up, old man; we'll have fresh pork for breakfast, or my name isn't what it is."

Meanwhile the din outside the window continues with unabated fury, and I am by this time sufficiently awake to know that it is the aggregate product of manifold canine throats possessing vocal powers of Pandemoniacal variety of expression.

Besides ourselves there were two other inmates of the bungalow on this night, viz: our regular servant, an excitable but trustworthy Hibernian, and a Malay whom we employed now and then to do odd jobs about the place. The head of the latter now appeared at our door, and ejaculating, "Porker, peeg!" immediately disappeared again. On rushing into the next room, we found Dennis, the aforesaid Hibernian, lighting up our great perforated tin lantern, his dark eyes gleaming with delight and excitement.

"What are you going to do with the lantern, Dennis?" asks H., who rightly thinks that in the pig hunt a lantern will be more picturesque than useful.

"Faix, sorr," says Dennis, with a grin, "Amn't I goin' to light the gentleman that's outside this teemin' night into our bungalow. Darggo's gone to keep his honor in sight."

"Darggo" is the cognomen which Dennis bestowed on the Malay, and one which the latter at first strongly resented; but, overcome at last by Dennis's good-humored persistency, he had come to answer to it, under protest as it were, and sullenly exercising his right to repudiate the name on those arbitrary occasions whensoever his dignity might deem it necessary.

Whilst H. and I had been drawing on our boots, we had heard a violent scuffle in the verandah, then a fierce grunt, a rush, a dismal howl, and then the noise of the dogs had died away over the hill in front of the house. It is a stormy night; the rain had ceased, and the wind has got up and is driving thick masses of clouds across the sky, rendering the waning moon almost useless to us. H., as the best marksman, is armed with our only rifle; I carry a light American axe; and Dennis, over and above the lantern, has armed himself with an instrument something like a stout reaping-hook, with a long, straight handle. Of course, in our belts are stuck the sheath-knives we always carry, and thus accoutred, we go slipping and splashing down the slope on which our residence is situated, across the small gully at the bottom, and are pushing our way through the wet grass, up the hill on the other side, beyond which we can hear the dogs giving tongue as wildly as ever, when we are suddenly aware, by "the straggling moon-beans' misty light," of a gesticulating apparition which bears swiftly down upon us. It is "Darggo," who, with rapid and excited gestures, describes the position of the enemy, intimating that he is very large and likely to prove dangerous, and generally recommending caution in our plan of attack. Here we are all agreed, for we have long since acquired that deferential respect for the wild boar that every one does who has had anything to do with the hunting of him. When Darggo, therefore, silently signs for us to follow him, with the confident air of a man who has a defined plan in his head, we immediately accept his guidance. The natives glide away to the left, closely followed by H. with the rifle; I came next and Dennis brings up in the rear with his cherished lantern.

The boar, appears, is sullenly standing bay beside a waterhole in the next gully, protected on his right flank and rear by a tangled thicket, and a kind of thorny bramble. This thicket, though it certainly enabled his porcine majesty to bid defiance to the dogs, was the very thing that Darggo had perceived to be the weakness of his position. Numerous cattle tracks lead down to the waterhole, and guided unerringly by the Malay, though there is only a glimmer of moonlight now and then, we cross the gully higher up, and are soon stealing along in Indian file down one of these narrow, slippery tracks, keeping the thicket as a screen between ourselves and our prey. By this means, while the animal's attention was occupied by the dogs, we hoped to get close enough for H. to get a shot at him in a moment of moonlight.

I confess to feeling anything but confident that he was not making a mistake in the darkness, and leading us down a track up which at any moment the victim of our anticipations might make a sudden charge, a possibility that, hemmed in as we were on either side by tangled brushwood, it was not pleasant to dwell upon. In fact I freely admit that the nearer we ap-

proached that pig the less jovial I felt, and that proximity to the possible pork chops of to-morrow morning, while still in a state of fierce vitality to-night, tended considerably to lessen my enthusiasm concerning those delicacies. However, by some mysterious law of the nervous system which I will not attempt to explain, I enjoyed the very danger which produced my funk.

When about two hundred yards from the spot we wished to reach, Darggo suddenly stopped and pointing back to Dennis's lantern, made signs that it should be put out. To this Dennis strongly objected and only reluctantly complied—as we thought—when H. ordered him to do so. "Huh! petter he go pack to ped," was the native's contemptuous observation as he jogged on again.

A few minutes more we had got close enough to the scene of action to hear the savage champ, champ of the boar as he whetted his tusks—those terrible tusks, with which with an almost imperceptible jerk of his snout he could lay the strongest dog in the agonies of death. H., guided by Darggo, now creeps up to the thicket before alluded to, and Dennis and I separate, each to station ourselves where we have a chance of getting a blow at the enemy as he runs, should H's shot prove ineffectual. I was careful not to place myself directly in a track. To do so would have probably resulted, had the boar chosen that line of retreat, in finding myself knocked a considerable distance into the midst of the approaching week, after having aimed a wild and futile blow at no precise object and reclining on mother earth, with perhaps a gash in the leg and many little stars before my eyes, I should, no doubt, have felt that I had made a mistake.

I had been waiting some five or six minutes, axe in hand, anxiously listening for H's expected shot. I knew it would take some time to get a chance of firing without the risk of hurting the dogs, and besides, unluckily, the moon was just now obscured by clouds, and so I stood eagerly watching for them to pass over, when with startling suddenness, a few paces from me there streamed forth a red and flickering light, not the momentary flash of a rifle; and besides, there followed no report. But I had no time for conjectures, for the next moment I saw the boar, followed by the madly excited dogs, rushing straight in the direction of the light. There was a roar of anger in H's voice and a roar of fright in Dennis's, a canine howl or two, a crash, a groan, a clatter of tin, then sudden darkness again, the boar and dogs having disappeared into the night, as it were, in a sort of wild apotheosis of confusion. H. and I both ran to where the light had been, feeling anything but comfortable about poor Dennis's fate. We found him sitting in a cattle-track, and the moon shining out showed one side of his face thickly coated with mud as he looked up at us with a dazed expression of countenance and a sheepish air of a man who knows he has put his foot in it.

To the inquiry, "Much hurt, Dennis?" he ruefully replied, in a gasping sort of way:

"Och, the saints preserve us!—I—don't right-



A CHANCE OF GETTING A BLOW AT THE ENEMY.

ly know—but I—b'lieve I'm alive, though there's more wind—been knocked out—of my body this blessed night—than I ever thought I had in it. There isn't a breath left in me big enough—to fill the lungs of a good-sized mosquito, so there isn't."

"No bones broken then?" said H.

"Faix, sorr, I hope not; but they're that shook up and mixed like, that I feel for all the world like a bundle of sticks tied up loose."

"Well, but what the devil did you do it for?" said H., who, seeing the culprit wasn't much hurt, thought it time to haul him over the coals a bit.

"Shure, wasn't I showing your honor a light to shute the baste by!" was poor Dennis's apologetic answer.

The fact was that, instead of having extinguished the lantern as we thought he had done, he had merely put it under his loose smock, and by flashing its light onto the boar at the moment he did he had thought, by thus assisting H. in his aim, to cover himself with glory, and to triumph over Darggo, between whom and himself a jealousy always existed. It was a luminous idea, but the result was a failure.

Annoyed and worried by the dogs—of which we had six of all breeds and sizes—the boar had not gone far when he again turned and stood at bay, this time close to a shallow creek, from which we drew our water for household purposes. When, guided by the barking of the dogs, we reached the place—though the sky had cleared we could see no pig, for he had ensconced himself in a clump of fern against the trunk of a fallen tree. This fact was evident enough from the behavior of "Lockjaw," an

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How many a poor bread-earner there is who keeps on and on at his daily toil, taking cough medicines by fits and starts, but never quite curing his cough, while this same cough is but a symptom of decay that is eating into his lungs, and will in time cause their destruction.

Thus does a wife observe her husband, or

parents witness the struggle of a darling child, while no steps are taken to battle with the evil until consumption has seized on one more victim. It is terrible to think how far we may be guilty by our indifference to the lung troubles of those near and dear to us. It is also terrible to think that we may possibly hug a similar dangerous delusion as to our own health until too late to obtain a remedy.

Let us leave the distressing subject to come to what is practical.

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When writing to the Doctor, please mention reading this article in COMFORT.

The question now was how to dislodge the game. We might set on the dogs, but that course would probably result in getting one, and most likely the best of them, disabled, we therefore decided on the only other plan there was, namely that of firing into his hiding-place (CONTINUED ON PAGE 16.)

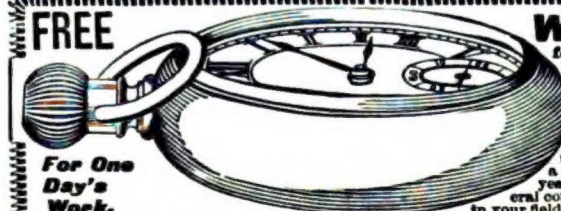
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CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

ALTHOUGH it is yet early in the season, manufacturers have already begun their models for the year. The various improvements which have been effected in the wheel during the past two seasons have not left very wide room for improvement in the product of 1899. Although the bevel gear has attained limited popularity, the old style of crank, sprocket and chain will still characterize the wheel. The general frame lines of last year's models will be maintained, although there may be reaction on the part of certain makers against the excessively short head. The short head, it is claimed by some, has been the cause of many frames getting twisted out of alignment because the lower tube running up from the bottom brackets at such a sharp angle there is more sway in the rear section of the machine. The rear wheel does not follow so quickly, and in turning corners sharply or steering through sand the twist on the frame is apt to be serious. This proposition, though, is not generally considered to be of much importance, and, as a rule, the dropped crank hangers and low heads will be retained.

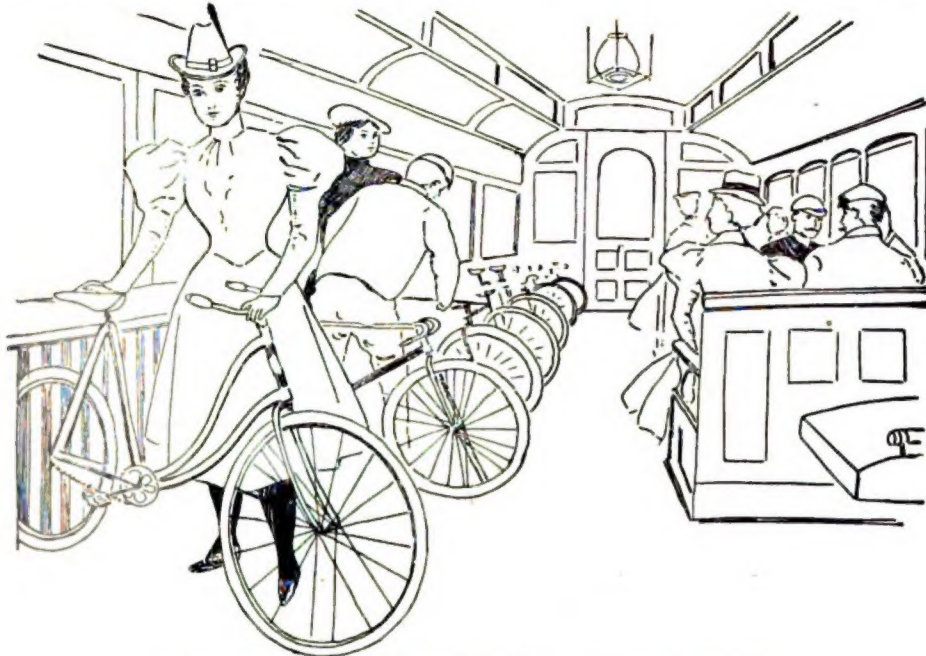
The complaint on the part of some riders against the increased weight of roadsters and their efforts to bring wheels back to a pound or two nearer the scale of 1895 will pass unheeded, for the reason that, with the reduced prices prevailing, manufacturers cannot afford to take such risks on their guarantee as formerly. Lowering the weight of bicycles would mean a slightly increased cost of production and a decrease in the factor of safety. The lighter the wheels, the more liability to breakage, and necessarily an increase in the claims upon the producers for renewals of parts. As a matter of fact, the 1899 product is liable to be a half to one pound heavier than last year's. D-shaped rear forks and back stays will be retained.

Half a dozen makers, it is now known, will make up part of their stock with thirty-inch wheels, which annoys a few of the others, because with wheels thirty inches in diameter frame lines would have to be so altered that it means a complete change of patterns, with the consequent expense of new tools. This annoyance is felt because of the bare possibility of the thirty-inch man creating a demand and

will not feel that he is carrying unnecessary weight. One who rides for pleasure will need a strong wheel, yet he is the rider who wants a light one. One of the most important questions to be settled, then, is the weight. As I have said, the wheels this year weigh more than they did last season, and are two or three pounds heavier than the wheels of the year before last; and it has been found by the experience of two seasons, that about twenty-five pounds is the lightest weight that is desirable in a road wheel.

A wheel should be selected with reference to what will be required of it at critical moments, instead of what it can do on an average, for no one cares to risk a long walk home with a broken machine on his shoulder. There is a tendency toward lower frames this year, the crank hanger being below a line drawn between the hubs of the two wheels. It is claimed that this is a gain in power, and certainly the beginner hasn't so far to fall from the saddle. Probably the most satisfactory saddle will be of the anatomical pattern, of which the Christy is the pioneer. In tires there are several good makes, but the single tube is now the favorite. When it comes to accessories, the purchaser finds any number of good things, new and old. In the matter of accessories it can be said that they should be selected with the same care as the wheel itself. Of lamps it may be said that a new thing at the show this year, and one which shows an improvement over all others, is one that has a swinging bracket and stands perpendicular, even when the wheel is laid on one side.

The new cushion frame device is totally unlike former so-called spring frames. There is no teetering or rebounding. It is a comfortable seat on the saddle at all times. There is no losing of pedals, no loss of power, and it is claimed to be a much faster frame than the rigid frame. Those who have ridden over rough roads and cobblestones will appreciate this new invention, because it permits them to ride on any kind of a road without jolting or jarring. In jumping car tracks and any kind of reasonable obstructions there is no loss of speed. In construction the new cushion frame is simple and effective. No change whatever is made in the general lines of the frame, the cushion action being entirely concealed in the tubing over the rear wheel. The device proper is composed of pneumatic telescoping tubes,



BICYCLE CAR USED ON NEW YORK ELEVATED, LAST SUMMER.

finding a market not open to the rest. As cycles with thirty-inch wheels are necessarily bigger and heavier, and being more costly to make, are held at higher prices, they are not likely to appeal to the scorching element or to the great middle class of buyers who want medium prices. Large-sized riders who have large purses and exclusive ideas are apt to furnish the chief market for this type of cycle, and it is in recognition of these conditions that the majority of makers are holding aloof from the experiment. The fact that the larger the wheel the less vibration there is for the frame and the rider is about the strongest virtue in the thirty-inch wheels, although it is true, also, that the increased size of the frame permits of a greater drop at the crank hanger.

It is worth noting that there seems to be an increase in the number of those who ride the bicycle for pleasure and recreation—in other words, tourist riders. That manufacturers are recognizing the claims of this class of riders is apparent from the number of designs of "road wheels" which are shown in their catalogues. It is recognized by all the manufacturers that there is no one "best" bicycle. The sensible rider will no more seek a road wheel on which he can ride track races than he would of buying a dray horse which should also be a racer. While each manufacturer may claim that the wheels which he makes are the best in their class, he has found it necessary to make different classes according to the needs of the rider. The prospective purchaser, therefore, must first decide for what purpose he wishes a bicycle, and having settled that point, he can spend half a day profitably in examining models at different places.

To begin with, it is presumed that the buyer is looking for a wheel which will be generally serviceable; that is to say, one that will be firm and heavy enough to stand the wear and tear of country roads and rough city pavements, and yet will be light enough so that he

working one within another. The innermost tube contains a graduated spiral steel spring within the telescoping tubes, sustaining the thrust of the rider when crossing obstructions. The air also serves to assist the spring and return the rider to a normal position without any tendency to an upward throw, no sudden jolt; a nice, easy motion that makes riding a pleasure. The air used in the tubes is always normal. Its action is absolutely automatic, and no pumping is required as with the pneumatic tire.

As to prices, it may be said that one can get a bicycle at almost any price, and as a rule, will get what he pays for. There is a tendency among the manufacturers to bring the price nearer the cost of production, and recognizing that inevitably the law of supply and demand must govern, manufacturers of chainless wheels have lowered the prices to \$75, from \$125 of last year. In doing this the manufacturers claim they have not cheapened their wheels, but believe that the reduced price for a "standard, high-grade" wheel will increase their sales enough to make up the difference, and have accepted the verdict of the people who declare that "\$100 is too much for a bicycle."

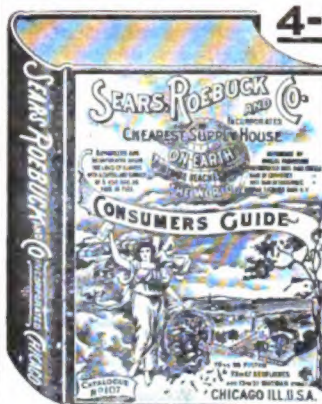
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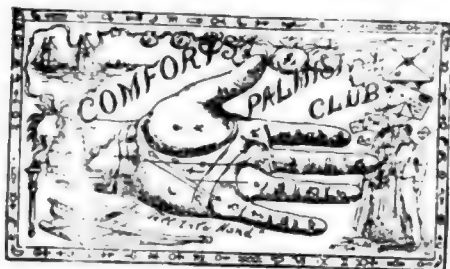
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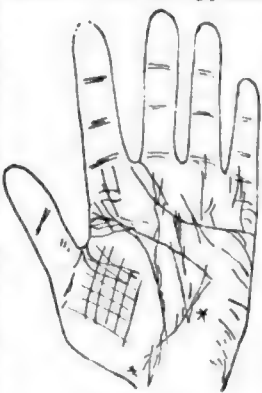
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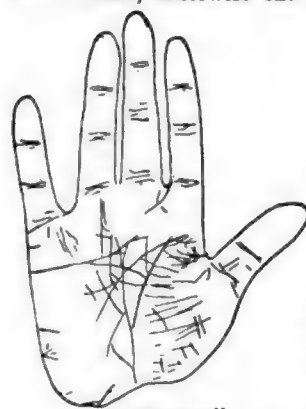
The first hand to be read this month belongs to "May S." and a very complicated hand, having many broken and fine lines. It denotes a very nervous and highly sensitive person, one who will see many changes in life. Most of these, however, will be for the better, as there is a steady advance throughout life, which will be long and successful. This person has great tact and strong will power. She can gain great power over the masses, and if she adopts a public career will be remarkably successful in it. She is fond of music and of art, but if she adopts the stage or the lecture platform will find she has made no mistake, although she will meet with some obstacles at first. She will meet with opposition from her own people during the earlier part of her career, but she will persevere and will end with both fame and money. She will be popular with the opposite



"MAY S."

sex, but her mind is really set on something more than love and matrimony, and she will not make these her first object in life. These good things will come, however, in their own good time. She will receive the most admiration from men from thirty to forty and her most serious love affairs will come then. She is a very ambitious woman, and her "dreams will all come true." That is, she will be successful and by the time she is forty-five will be a very distinguished woman. If she is young now this may seem a long time to wait, but remember that no one has ever yet achieved distinction without working a long time for it, and that honors cheaply won are not prized at all. There is a great deal of good in this hand and a highly artistic temperament. If anything "May S." lacks in courage to go ahead on her own lines. She is bound down too much to the opinions of others. Perseverance and the courage of her own convictions are what she needs to cultivate. Do not be easily discouraged, for there is every indication of success; so whatever you make up your mind that you want to do or to be in life, that go to work at with a will. With such a hand as this there is no such word as "fail."

"Inventor" is the next to come under our inspection this month. This hand shows wonderful inventive genius. This is a straightforward nature, one that makes many friends and few enemies. In early life she was bound down by the rules of some one else older than she, and she has felt the lack of self confidence ever since; but she has found her own footing now and loves to study up new improvements for the good of her kind. She will turn this to good account and will succeed as an inventor. She ought to patent all her inventions and so protect her own ideas and reap the benefits of them herself; otherwise she will be liable to encounter infringements and troubles of that nature. She will marry but once and that about the age of thirty. I cannot tell by the impression before me whether she will have children or not. I should judge not, however. She will be successful for the most part, but will not live to a very great age, that is not beyond the age of sixty or so. She has great tact and will always make herself useful to the community where she lives. Her life will be spent in the same vicinity, although she will travel somewhat during the earlier part. Her inventions will prove lucrative in some degree, though she will never be very wealthy.



"INVENTOR."

"Lygia's" hand is of a very different type. She will marry young and be quite happy for ten or twelve years. Then she will be left a widow and will marry again when she is about the age of thirty-five. I think her second husband will outlive her. She has a very amiable, sweet disposition and has hosts of friends. She is imaginative, fond of reading, of music and pictures. The opposite sex are quite devoted to her and always will be, as this is the sort of women that men adore. She is fascinating in her manners and witty in conversation, understanding the art of making each hearer feel that she listens with the deepest interest to what he has to say. In short, she is sympathetic with every one who comes into her circle. She will have one or two children who will love her devotedly. On the whole this hand indicates a happy and beloved person if not a great career.

"Althea" has a hand indicating a great deal of character and promise for the future. It is a hand with exceptionally good lines in many respects; strongly marked and indicative of success. She is a person of great tact, good judgment, and is well fitted to get along with

other people. In whatever dealings she has with others she will be gracious, tactful and helpful. She is of a philosophical turn of mind and scientific.

She is fond of scientific studies and will succeed in any that she may undertake. In medicine especially she will find her vocation. There are many lines rising from the life line, especially up to the age of fifty. These all indicate success, and some of them success of the most marked character. She is very ambitious, and the star on Jupiter indicates that she will succeed in her ambitions. She will have some hard battles to fight, however, before she wins success, and these will all come between the ages of twenty-five and forty-five. She is, however, fitted to fight all the battles that are necessary to win success, as she has perseverance, courage and energy and she will not give up when she undertakes a thing. On this account she will succeed, and will become distinguished even in some branches which she undertakes. There will be one journey in her life, about middle life, which will contribute to her success and will probably extend into foreign lands. She will go abroad to study, or in some way connected with her business or profession. It will be a very successful trip, as in fact all that she undertakes contributes in the end to her success; although there may be some fighting of obstacles to do before she wins success. I think she will marry twice, and the last marriage will be more successful and perhaps happier than the first, although there are no indications of serious unhappiness which she does not overcome. I am much pleased with this hand and would encourage the owner of it to go forward in her scientific studies and to carry them on as far as possible as she has the qualities for success in a marked degree.

Several hands come to me in plaster of paris which is apt to crack and break up, and in putty which almost invariably peels off. Smoked paper impressions are far preferable to any other if properly treated with fixatif. The latter is a preparation of diluted gum arabic, which can be obtained at any druggist's or wherever artists' materials are sold. It is to be sprayed over the fresh impressions with an atomizer.

I will start off the new year by repeating the directions for taking impressions, and I wish you would all pay close heed to them. Take a large sheet of white paper, legal cap or commercial note. Hold it carefully over an oil or spirit lamp, or better yet, a lighted candle. Hold it near enough the flame so that the smoke will leave a fine black deposit without burning the paper. When the paper is well smoked, lay it on a flat board or table (without a cloth). Then place the right hand, palm downward, firmly on the paper, pressing hard

without moving it a hair's breadth. Hold it so a minute, then take up quickly without disturbing in the least the impressions made. Have ready some artists' fixatif (obtainable at any store where artists' materials are kept) in an atomizer. With the latter squeeze sufficient of the fixatif over the impression made to keep it from rubbing. This gives an indelible impression.

If you will secure a club of four subscribers at 50 cents per year and send same with money and impression of your palm, we will be pleased to read same, and reading will appear in the earliest possible issue of COMFORT.

Digitus

Strange New Shrub that Cures Kidney and Bladder Diseases, Rheumatism, etc.—Free.

We have previously described the new botanical discovery, Alkavis, which proves a specific cure for diseases caused by Uric acid in the blood, or disorder of the kidneys or urinary organs. It is now stated that Alkavis is a product of the well-known Kava-Kava Shrub, and is a specific cure for these diseases, just as quinine is for malaria. Hon. R. C. Wood of Lowell, Ind., writes that in four weeks Alkavis cured him of Rheumatism and Kidney and Bladder disease of ten years' standing, and Rev. Thomas M. Owen, of West Pawlet, Vt., gives similar testimony. Many ladies also testify to its wonderful curative powers in disorders peculiar to womanhood. The only importers of Alkavis so far are the Church Kidney Cure Co., of 409 Fourth Avenue, New York, and they are so anxious to prove its value that for the sake of introduction they will send a free treatment of Alkavis prepaid by mail to every reader of COMFORT, who is a sufferer from any form of Kidney or Bladder disorder, Bright's Disease, Rheumatism, Dropsy, Gravel, Pain in Back, difficult or too frequent passing water, or other affliction due to improper action of the kidneys or urinary organs. We advise all sufferers to send their names and address to the company, and receive the Alkavis free. It is sent to you entirely free, to prove its wonderful curative power.

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Entered at the Post Office at Augusta, Maine, as second-class mail matter.

Published Monthly at Augusta, Maine.

Boston Office, Hancock Building.
New York Office, Tribune Building. Chicago Office, Marquette Building.

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Now that we have actually reached "fin-de-siècle" we hear nothing of the phrase that answered for every situation in life a year ago. Worn out before it actually had the right to live! 1899 is "close of the century" but no one says it in French.

"A Happy New Year!" The phrase seems stereotyped but a mental review of the situation at the opening of 1899 warrants the reality of the fulfillment. Peace within our borders, prosperity at our gates and the last year of the century suggesting a promise for the future. A "Happy New Year" in very truth.

One of the most popular plays for some years was a farcical affair named "Too Much Johnson." A glance at some curios in the line of statistics would incline a whimsical observer to the idea that the title might have originated in a knowledge of Chicago statistics. The prevalence of certain names is indicated in this table and Chicago enjoys the proud distinction of being the only large city that has not an excess of Smiths over every other name in the calendar. Chicago has more Johnsons than citizens of any other name.

France furnishes entertainment to the other nations of Europe of the continuous variety order. From rapid changes in her form of government she has grown to rapid changes in the parties administering government. Volatile, fickle, easily excited, passionate and willful has been the France of the last twenty-five years. The close student of affairs can however discern signs of growing moral steadiness in the attitude of France during the last few months. It was the saner part of the French people who insisted and forced a revision of the famous Dreyfus affair. With the press and people of Europe clamoring and seemingly endeavoring to bring on a conflict, France possessed a calm course in the Fashoda matter. Whether a republican form of government can be a success with the Latin races is an open question. France has not yet answered it in the affirmative, but a growing strength in the moral fiber of her people has been noted in the last two points of difficulty that the government has been obliged to settle.

Sometimes an almost forgotten voice from the past sounds like a prophecy when heard through the medium of the present. In 1584, Richard Hakluyt wrote one of the first English books concerning America. The object was to interest Queen Elizabeth in the new lands. Spain and England were then on the verge of war. The treasure that made Spain the leading nation of the world came largely from America. Hakluyt pointed out to the queen that the wisest move was to deprive Philip of his West Indian possessions. He says: "If you touch him in the Indies, you touch the apple of his eyes, for to take away his treasure which he hath at most out of his West Indies, his old bandes of souldiers well soone be dissolved, his purpose defeated, his pride abated and his tyrannie utterly suppressed. He shall be left bare as Esop's crowe." Three hundred and fourteen years have passed since those meaning words were uttered. During all that time the West Indies have continued to pour riches into the coffers of Spain. It was not England but England's great daughter that at last has left Spain "bare as Esop's crowe". In this same connection the comment of an early traveler upon the national and inevitable commercial relations between the United States and the Philippines is another seeming prediction that has come true.

Cornell University has inaugurated a movement commendable in its purpose and far reaching in its results. The College of Agriculture has noted with regret the growing tendency of the young people to leave farm or country life and to flock to the cities. It has been thought that this was not altogether due to the desire to escape the hard struggle of country life. The average boy upon the farm has hours of leisure when the lad employed in the city has minutes. It is a harder mental and physical task to sustain existence in the city than in the country. The attraction of the city lies in the many interests and amusements that it furnishes so liberally to its citizens. Cornell University wishes to make country life as interesting to the people living there as city life is to the town dwellers. There is a living, breathing world about the dweller in the country but he has not been trained to observe it. Plants, birds, flowers, insects, all tell a story of wonderful interest but even the alphabet of this thrilling story is unknown to the people best placed to read it. With the purpose of making "Nature Study" a part of the everyday life of the people, Cornell has sent a bright young woman familiar with every detail of national science into each meeting of teachers in the state. She carries specimens with her and in a simple, direct, forcible manner she interests the teachers in the subject matter that God has placed all around them. Through the 30,000 teachers of the state it is believed the children can be trained to an observation that will add a new interest to their lives and a new element of beauty and kindness to their development into men and women. Cornell also sends out free printed matter to all interested in Nature Study. More than a thousand teachers a month are sending in requests for this material. The movement is one of great educational and popular interest. Aside from the immediate effect upon the individual child whose senses are trained by this observation of reality, is this element of making country life attractive.

Each year brings some new development in altruistic movements. People are struggling to solve the problem not alone of how to live but of how to live well. The man who has any plan or idea that looks towards the better use of life finds eager listeners. One of the latest developments of this line of work is the People's Institute of New York City. It numbers among its incorporators and advisory names that have long been prominent in all the philosophical and philanthropic work of the last decade. A series of free lectures are planned to continue from November until May. The larger number of these are to be held in the great hall of Cooper Union. Those in all lines of work who have attained prominence are in the list of speakers, leading members of the faculty of universities, men prominent in labor or social reform or any one who has a message to give to man. The Monday lectures are upon Nineteenth Century History and include a discussion of the place of each of the Great Powers in the history of the century. The Friday programme is upon Present Problems and the list of lectures indicate the idea of the directors as to what the problems of the day are. Among the lectures are: "Our New Territories and the Problems They Offer;" "Lyman Abbott speaks upon 'Our New Responsibilities'"; and "Titus Coan speaks upon Hawaii as he is the author of several books on the subject;" "Bolivar and the Spanish American War of Independence;" "Cuba and Porto Rico;" "The Philippines;" "The Philippines and a Colonial Policy;" and "What We May Learn from Spain" are among other topics. Booker Washington speaks upon "Race Problem in the United States." Samuel Gompers speaks upon "The Rough Struggle and the Noble Aspirations of Labor." Edward Everett Hale speaks upon "Emerson as an Interpreter of Life Problems." These lectures are followed by discussion. They are designed for the people. No man is too elevated in station or rich in purse or advanced intellectually to be beyond the helpful influence of these vivid presentations of the life of the century. On the other hand no laborer or even wanderer in the streets of the city is excluded. The Institute aims to show first "the brotherhood of man" and the unity of human life and effort. It is a great work and an interesting development of the helpful hopeful spirit of the century. Long life to the People's Institute.

The year just closing has been one of the greatest moment to the United States. The turning point of the roads seems to have been reached but we have not yet gone far enough in the new path to determine with what success or ill we shall tread it or where its end may lie. One year ago the man who should have predicted that the United States within a year would acquire possessions on the opposite side of the world would have been considered a madman. Many of the most conservative of our thinkers and students do not favor the new doctrine of colonial expansion. They point to the fact that we as a nation have not made a brilliant success of our treatment of the Indian and neither have we yet solved the race problem presented in the South. Incidentally both those alien races are within the government of the national or state laws. The great mass of the American people are however cheerfully optimistic. In spite of the fact that the Anglo-Saxon race from the time of its earliest contact with "Indians" and throughout its varied experiences with "lesser breeds without the law" has not been particularly successful with savage races, they anticipate few difficulties with the savage millions that will be dependent upon them. It is a problem too deep to solve by surmise or plausible probabilities. It is a problem that will tax the powers of the nation for years to come. It will not be successfully solved in this generation or the next. We may feel joy at our magnificent territorial expansion but we must feel solemn and weighty obligation. Theories must become acts when the Philippines are ours. The men at the head of affairs will have responsibilities greater even than those of the founders of this republic. We can only reassure ourselves by turning from the heavy responsibility and the puzzling new questions and realizing that the great nation that has assumed them is honest, earnest, progressive and buoyant with a belief in itself. Many people have urged that in order to be consistent this country could not avail itself of the territory it had conquered. We entered the war to force Spain to a right course in Cuban matters and we leave it with a new doctrine of imperialism and of territorial expansion contrary to all precedents of our govern-

ment. In regard to this last claim it might be considered that the United States is too young a nation to have set all the precedents that will influence its history. We are only ten years past the century mark as a nation, and the precedents of Washington's administration are yet new in the face of the lengthy history of other nations. We have a precedent for a change of motive in our wars. Our great war of independence was not entered for that purpose. For over a year the Continental Army was fighting for the principle "no taxation without representation." It was only after over a year of fighting that we determined to change the battle to a war for independence. Patrick Henry and even Washington himself were not convinced of the wisdom of that change of motive but both lived to heartily endorse it. The Civil War was entered upon solely to demonstrate the principle "No Secession" but it ended in "No Slavery." We have been able to meet the war issues that were unexpected and unpremeditated—and we can do so again.

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No.	Piano or Organ.	Composer	No.	Voice and Piano or Organ.	Composer
105	American Liberty March	Cook	2	Annie's Love. Duet for Soprano, Tenor	Winter
101	Andalusian March	Cook	27	Ave Maria. From Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni
101	Andalusian March	Cook	140	Beacon Light of Hope	Estabrooke
101	Andalusian March	Cook	144	Beautiful Face of Jennie, The	Reussmann
101	Andalusian March	Cook	134	Beautiful Moonlight Duet	Glaser
101	Andalusian March	Cook	102	Ben Bolt, of 'Tribby' fame	Kneass
101	Andalusian March	Cook	12	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow	Carson
101	Andalusian March	Cook	34	By Normandie's Blue Hills	Trotter
101	Andalusian March	Cook	192	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	Estabrooke
101	Andalusian March	Cook	122	Changeling	Trotter
101	Andalusian March	Cook	138	Christmas Carol	Turner
101	Andalusian March	Cook	190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
101	Andalusian March	Cook	168	Coon's Breach of Promise. Cake walk	Blake
101	Andalusian March	Cook	92	Cool Bells, The. Boyhood's Recollection	Grimm
101	Andalusian March	Cook	176	Darling Nellie Gray	Hanby
101	Andalusian March	Cook	74	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke
101	Andalusian March	Cook	128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.	Hoot
101	Andalusian March	Cook	50	Easter Eve. Sacred	Round
101	Andalusian March	Cook	19	E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Eplett
101	Andalusian March	Cook	72	Esther's Lullaby. Slumber Song	Musker
101	Andalusian March	Cook	180	Far Away	Ellis
101	Andalusian March	Cook	182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance	Messner
101	Andalusian March	Cook	126	Far from the Heartstone	Messner
101	Andalusian March	Cook	156	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic	Mathson
101	Andalusian March	Cook	164	Flag, The. Quartette	Fitz
101	Andalusian March	Cook	144	Flirting in the Starlight	Delanno
101	Andalusian March	Cook	8	Flossie. Waltz Song	Johnson
101	Andalusian March	Cook	138	For a Dream's Sake	Wilson
101	Andalusian March	Cook	36	For the Colors. Patriotic	Watson
101	Andalusian March	Cook	67	For You We are Praying. Home	Estabrooke
101	Andalusian March	Cook	168	From our Home the Loved are Going	Percy
101	Andalusian March	Cook	178	God Bless My Kind Old Mother	Jewell
101	Andalusian March	Cook	160	Gypsy Countess. Duet	Glaser
101	Andalusian March	Cook	184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past	Skelly
101	Andalusian March	Cook	74	In Sweet September	Glaser
101	Andalusian March	Cook	188	In the Starlight. Duet	Glaser
101	Andalusian March	Cook	28	Juanita. Ballad	May
101	Andalusian March	Cook	98	Kathleen Maureen	Cronch
101	Andalusian March	Cook	21	Keep the Horseshoe over the Door	Selly
101	Andalusian March	Cook	132	Kiss me, but don't say goodby	Kathledge
101	Andalusian March	Cook	102	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Kelly
101	Andalusian March	Cook	146	Labrador Watch. Duet	Williams
101	Andalusian March	Cook	146	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hutchorne
101	Andalusian March	Cook	184	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
101	Andalusian March	Cook	184	Little Voice at the Door	Danks
101	Andalusian March	Cook	106	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
101	Andalusian March	Cook	106	Lottie Bell	Gilbert
101	Andalusian March	Cook	40	Love Ever Faithful	Bucalossi
101	Andalusian March	Cook	80	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	Casey
101	Andalusian March	Cook	25	Lullaby. Do you think of now?	Estabrooke
101	Andalusian March	Cook	112	Masses' Sleepers at Churchyard	Skelly
101	Andalusian March	Cook	100	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	Cowan
101	Andalusian March	Cook	52	Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army)	Adrian
101	Andalusian March	Cook	172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
101	Andalusian March	Cook	64	Musical Dialogue. Duet	Helmund
101	Andalusian March	Cook	112	My First Wife's Deeds (Bluebird)	Glaser
101	Andalusian March	Cook	76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Halloran
101	Andalusian March	Cook	110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
101	Andalusian March	Cook	170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
101	Andalusian March	Cook	84	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
101	Andalusian March	Cook	106	Swanee Ribber. National	Wood
101	Andalusian March	Cook	102	Old Sexton, The	Johnson
101	Andalusian March	Cook	104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
101	Andalusian March	Cook	90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Johnson
101	Andalusian March	Cook	160	Outcast, An. Character Song	Fritz
101	Andalusian March	Cook	174	Outcast from our Dear Ones	Skelly
101	Andalusian March	Cook	100	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
101	Andalusian March	Cook	148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic	Cook
101	Andalusian March	Cook	56	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance	Weller
101	Andalusian March	Cook	136	Request. Sacred	Grainger
101	Andalusian March	Cook	23	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
101	Andalusian March	Cook	142	Rosemunde	Chambers
101	Andalusian March	Cook	80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
101	Andalusian March	Cook	88	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adrian
101	Andalusian March	Cook	124	Softly and Tenderly the Stars of Evening	Immsore
101	Andalusian March	Cook	120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Hallah
101	Andalusian March	Cook	100	Sweet Song, The	Glaser
101	Andalusian March	Cook	32	Sweet Long Ago. Transcription	Estabrooke
101	Andalusian March	Cook	46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Estabrooke
101	Andalusian March	Cook	118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
101	Andalusian March	Cook	158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
101	Andalusian March	Cook	116	This True, Dear Heart, We're Calling	Estabrooke
101	Andalusian March	Cook	109	Tread softly, the Angels are calling	Turner
101	Andalusian March	Cook	38	True to the Last	Adams
101	Andalusian March	Cook	64	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English Song	Koppt
101	Andalusian March	Cook	62	Your Mother's Love for You	Glaser
101	Andalusian March	Cook	84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glaser
101	Andalusian March	Cook	58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
101	Andalusian March	Cook	86	When Winter Days Have Gone	Trayne
101	Andalusian March	Cook	186	Whistling Wife, The. Comic	Randall

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RED CROSS MARCH.

WM. C. HAMILTON.

The musical score for 'Red Cross March' is presented in a standard piano format. It begins with a forte (ff) dynamic and includes a variety of musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, time signatures, and repeat signs. A 'TRIO.' section is clearly marked. The score concludes with a final cadence.

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THE SEASON OF MUSIC.

Entertainments in the Cities in Full Swing.

How the Art has Grown in the Country Through Popular Methods.

There has never been a year when the musical city organizations have been doing so much and planning so many of the popular musical evenings as the present one. All kinds of evening entertainments as well as afternoon gatherings are being held to cultivate and encourage the growing taste for musical pleasure. The growth of popular concerts of mixed vocal and instrumental music is something phenomenal, and almost every city or town that boasts of an orchestra, a musical club or even a Brass band has arranged a series of popular evening concerts.

Nothing pleases more at all of these entertainments than the productions written in march time. We have pointed out frequently how outward affairs have always influenced the character of popular music and just now when our country is emerging from a great war the hearts of our people more readily respond to anything having the martial air. For this reason every march having what is called a "military swing" to it catches instantly the popular favor, and this same favor is extended to all songs on the stage in the same military tenor.

The military spirit which comes to every country once every generation is in full flood in America and the whole popular taste trends in that direction in every popular fancy or fad. Throughout the autumn the various meetings of semi-military organizations such as the Knights Templar, Knights of Pythias and many other large bodies have given ample opportunity for the display of military enthusiasm in marching, parading etc. Probably no finer sight could be imagined than the great parade of Knights Templar at Pittsburg last October on the occasion of their triennial convocation. As usual the musical composers were called to the occasion with many creditable compositions; but only one had that great merit

which will make it permanently popular.

We refer to the Red Cross March published in this number by permission of S. Hamilton, Pittsburg, Pa., and written by William C. Hamilton of the same city. On this grand occasion when nearly twenty thousand knights marched in the parade, and when fully four hundred thousand people visited the city no one air received such honor and attention as the march now published on this page. Its success was instantaneous and the first edition of 5000, much to the surprise of its owners, was sold with phenomenal rapidity.

The march was written in honor of the Tancred Commandery of Pittsburg and was the official march of the escort of the Grand Commander of the United States and was played by many of the other bands, along almost the entire route of the parade, eight miles. It also headed every official program at the different headquarters wherever dances were in order or orchestras and bands were used and its resulting sale in sheet form was a surprise to all who know the difficulties of introducing a new musical gem.

It is pleasant to remember that as the musical art is becoming more generally known and appreciated among the people, modern methods advanced as in any other field are taking the place of the old-fashioned ways that seem to have always prevailed in the publication of music. The demand makes competition in production; and that in turn leads to lower prices. This is why the old high prices are gradually disappearing; it is this that places the best sheet music in the hands of the poor as well as the rich; it is this that allows any person with a natural taste for music to be no longer debarred from its pleasures on account of excessive cost. The old day of high prices is slowly passing and the new one of good material at reasonable rates is with us.

Nothing has more helped in this great advance of musical culture among the masses than the course that COMFORT has adopted in putting out the very best music in sheet form at the lowest possible price. Instead of paying a dollar or a half dollar for a single sheet of music, under COMFORT's great mutual benefit plan the music lover receives the very best in full size words, notes and sheet for a trifle above the cost of postage. Often people who have not taken advantage of the wonderful offer doubt what is promised. We can only

say we will gladly refund the money should the music not prove on examination exactly what we promise. "Think I have a bargain," says Frank H. Camp, 1110 Madison St., St. Louis, a man living right in one of the largest cities of the Union, and right where great city bargains offer temptations.

"It is perfectly satisfactory. I am very much obliged to you for the prompt delivery," writes Mrs. W. C. Davis, Richmond, Va. Another city inhabitant that knows what a music bargain means. So you see it is appreciated everywhere. "The music is much better than I expected and is gotten up much better than some I have paid 40 cents to 75 cents for," writes Will S. Catlin, Blairsville, Pa., after testing the offer. "I got music that was cheap but I never struck such a sale as this," is the testimony of Lucia Robbins, Box 44, Waverly, Mo. And so we might go on indefinitely copying the words of delighted people who have tried our plan.

On another page will be found a long list of varied music which forms as a whole the choicest and best collection of music ever offered the public. Every piece is a selected gem and as a whole they form a grand lot. The most wonderful feature is the almost ridiculously low price you get the music at under the offer. Even if you do not want it yourself, you have hundreds of friends who would appreciate your kindness if you would use the offer and give them the music; or, if you cannot do that, at least oblige them by showing them this copy of COMFORT and asking them to read the list and the offer. Remember we guarantee satisfaction.

Our previous offers have had many pieces but in this one are a lot of new ones of great beauty and undoubted merit, among which we mention: 69, Flirting in the Starlight, a beautiful waltz; 185, Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still, ever popular; 74, In Sweet September; 188, In the Starlight. Both of which are gems. These and any of the others will please those who are looking for a bargain in music, such as was never before heard of.

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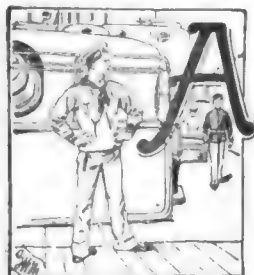
AUSTRALIA.



AUSTRALIA has been called a "fossil continent" because it presents types of life which have perished or become insignificant elsewhere. About the beginning of the Tertiary period of geology a convulsion of nature severed the connection which at one time existed between Australia and Asia, and from that time the former has been left to develop herself. Wallace's Line, a belt of deep sea that cuts through the Malay Archipelago, and all the fauna south of this line, except many of the birds and a few animals that have been carried there recently, are of a special and characteristic type. At the time of the severance small creatures of the marsupial or kangaroo type prevailed all over the world. In Australia these have developed slowly and undisturbed. In the rest of the world they were obliged to give way before stronger animals, till at length no advanced marsupial is left, with the exception of the opossum. The hairy birds such as the apteryx, belonging to a type extinct elsewhere, and finally much of the vegetation—the gum trees, the casuarinas and the wiry undergrowth—is a survival from the floras of past geological ages.



HOW many women realize that not less than ten million birds are killed every year that their hats may be decorated? Not only is this cruel, and many million nestlings thus left to starve—but it also leaves destructive insects without an enemy, to destroy whole crops and annoy farmers, cattle and horses. The egret is taken from the female heron, and grows only when she has young,—therefore when this is taken a whole family of young are left without a protector and thus perish. Much has been done to decrease this needless slaughter of innocents, but much more might be done if every woman in the land would content herself with ribbons, flowers, velvets, ostrich plumes and all the long array of beautiful trimmings, instead of buying birds and their wings.



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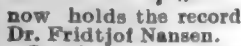
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A Pig Hunt in the Dark.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9.)

until we drove him out of it, when wounded perhaps by the shot, and held by Lockjaw, we might rush in and finish him off at close quarters. As the bunch of fern in which the animal lay was small, by firing into it, H. was almost certain to hit him before long; and the event quickly verified our anticipations, for scarcely had the sharp crack of the second shot rattled away into the hills, when out shambled the great beast, evidently hit hard. The glimmer of daylight was now in the sky, and in the half light an ugly customer looked the shaggy, grizzled, high-shouldered brute. The moment he appeared a little bull terrier, near whom he emerged, rushed at him. Alas! alas! poor little "Grip." One quick jerk sideways and upwards of the powerful snout and the wretched little dog is pitched aside, and lies hunched with mingling rage and agony. "Hold him, Lockjaw!" No need for the order; Grip's diversion has given him a splendid chance. In a moment his iron jaws have closed like a rat trap on the ear of his prey, and every sinew in his muscular body is tense as wire rope as he sets his feet forward and tugs backward to hold the boar. But despite all his efforts the pig is surely and steadily dragging him into the creek, where, half choked with water, the dog will be forced to relinquish his hold. There is no time to be lost; the Malay and I rush forward, and about two feet from the edge of the water I get a swinging blow with my axe at the rough monster. Impeded by the dogs, who, though all useless in such a tussle except Lockjaw, are prancing and barking round the two real combatants—I miss my aim at the animal's skull, but the keen axe striking him just behind the shoulders, goes through to his backbone with a shock that staggers him. The next minute dogs and pig are struggling in the shallow water of the creek, Lockjaw still hanging on to his deadly grip. Dago quickly plunges in after them; the water is only up to his knees and soon the boar, faint with loss of blood and half drowned, receives the coup de grace from the Malay's keen and dexterous knife. With some difficulty Lockjaw is persuaded to loose his hold, and the huge carcass dragged out of the brook that is stained with its blood, H. and I drew a long breath as we gaze on our lifeless prize, on which prize, on which Dago calmly sits as he recovers his wind. Poor Dennis, whose knee, it turns out, is badly sprained, limps up, and vindictively shakes his fist at his unconscious and prostrate foe; while the native, as he surveys his fellow servant, grins evidently with an unholy joy at his rival's recent discomfort, and his present lugubrious aspect. The beast is soon skinned and cleaned, the hide on some parts of his body being nearly an inch thick. As the sun rises we carry our dismembered victim up to the house, and the pork chops have soon become a reality instead of an expectation, and so ended "A pig hunt in the dark."

I may as well add that the poor little bull terrier, though we did all that experience had taught us for him, lingered but a few hours. The sharp tusk had ripped him up like a knife, from the beginning of the flank up to the hip joint, and nothing could probably have saved him. Lockjaw, too, received a nasty wound in the shoulder, which made him limp for many a day, and added another scar to the many similar decorations he already sported as evidence of his prowess.

Petroleum as a Fuel.



It is said that petroleum is fast coming into use as a fuel in the war-ships of the great naval powers. In 1893 Italian war-ships carried a supply of astaki in addition to their ordinary fuel, while many of their torpedo boats were fitted to use it exclusively. England has made great strides in the use of petroleum as a fuel, while Russia comes in as a close second. The latter country, with its enormous supplies of petroleum, finds it an exceedingly cheap and convenient fuel.

The advantages of its use as a fuel are, first—a reduction in the weight and volume of combustible material required for a given horsepower in the engines; second, the oil can be stored, at least partially, below water out of the reach of the shells; third, there is no fear of spontaneous combustion of the oil, such as occasionally occurs with coal, and being free from sulphur the oil is not likely to deteriorate the boiler shells or tubes; fourth, the operation of "firing," so difficult with coal, is extremely easy with petroleum, and once the draught is properly adjusted there is no belching of flame from the funnel of the boat to warn the enemy of its whereabouts in a night attack. The furnace doors can be kept closed also, thus avoiding the rush of cold air on the boilers, and their consequent cooling off at a critical moment.

WOMEN OF NOTE.

The wife of Li Hung Chang is said to have two thousand gowns. She has a thousand ladies in waiting.

Duse, the famous actress, was born in a railway carriage between Padua and Venice—therefore cannot know the place of her birth.

Patti has a unique fan, upon which nearly all of the European sovereigns have written their autographs, and sometimes their sentiments in addition. The Czar wrote: "Nothing brings peace like your song."

Queen Victoria has had nine children, and has lost two; she has had forty-one grandchildren and twenty-five great-grandchildren. This makes sixty-three descendants living, as eight of her grandchildren have died and two great-grandchildren.

The receipts of Queen Victoria from the government, yearly, amount to nearly \$3,000,000. Of this about \$600,000 goes for salaries to her household, \$60,000 for charities and bounties, \$96,000 for pensions and annuities and \$750,000 for miscellaneous expenses. She also receives \$450,000 a year from the duchy of Lancaster.

Queen Victoria's good health is without doubt due to her careful diet. She takes a light breakfast, a hearty luncheon and a substantial tea, and at nine in the evening has dinner, of which she eats very sparingly and only of the most nutritious food. When she is transacting business, Her Majesty takes a cup of beef tea between her breakfast and lunch, or a glass of milk with a beaten egg and a little sherry.

It is stated on good authority that of all the money earned by Bernhardt during her stage career, nothing remains to her but a modest dwelling on the Breton island. There she spends her days in crab-catching, fishing and shooting and forgets the words for a few months in each year. The chateau is a very primitive affair, having been at one time a fort guarded by forty men. Enormous boulders surround the house and the waves rage about them; no habitation is near, and yet the divine Sarah spends much of her time here, miles from her beloved Paris.

The personal attendants of the Czarina must be clever with the needle, to be of use when needed. The life of a lady about a court is not that of a butterfly, as some may imagine. She has to be able to read aloud well, and also to be proficient in cooking—as the every-day dinner menu is usually composed by a lady in waiting. The costume is of oriental magnificence, consisting of a white satin robe falling from the shoulders to the feet and fastened in front by buttons studded with gems. Over this a cloak of red velvet heavily embroidered with gold, is worn, and on the head rests the national Russian cap, which is called "kakochnik," made of crimson velvet thickly studded with jewels, and from the crown of which hangs a veil of white tulle. The Czarina allows no smoking among her ladies in waiting.

A White Baboon.



Most of us are familiar with polar bears and Arctic foxes, and such as saw the sacred, so-called "white" elephant of Burmah remember how sadly disappointed they were when in the presence of this mud-colored idol. Here, however, is another animal, a baboon, that justly may be called white. Both the skin and hair of this creature are absolutely white. It does not hail from the Arctic regions but from the Transvaal where it was captured, after an exciting chase, by some Trek Boers near the Murchison Range, Johannesburg, South Africa. The specimen is of the male species, and stands just four feet high; it is particularly restless and savage. Our picture is from a photograph taken at feeding-time.

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A NARROW ESCAPE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY JESSIE JORDAN.

THE following truthful story, related to me by the principal actor, will serve to illustrate some of the dangers to which those brave and determined spirits, who pave the way where others may live in peace and safety, are exposed.

"About twenty years ago, a party of ex-mormons settled in one of those fertile valleys in the region of Denver. Much of the government land was uncultivated at that time, and a cattle company sent about five thousand head of cattle into this valley in charge of several cowboys.

"The lawless gang who had settled the region did not like to share the pasturage with any others, and they trumped up an accusation of horse-stealing against the cowboys, and a gang of them seized three of the boys and took them to a place where a Justice's office occupied one end of a building, and a saloon the other, upon pretence of giving them a trial.

"Previous to taking their prisoners to the Justice, they rode up to the tent occupied by the boys, filled it with bullet holes and stamped the cattle, which scattered in every direction over the mountains and through the valleys and canyons.

"I had been invited to join in the pursuit of the alleged horse thieves, but knowing the character of the men engaged in it, I declined, saying I wanted nothing to do with vigilance committees; but when I heard that they had captured the boys, I requested them to do nothing rash or unjust, but to give them a fair trial.

"My entreaties were received with derision, and before morning the three prisoners were no more, and those remaining fled from the country and never returned. For several months the herds were allowed to remain where they were, but at the end of that time the men who had been so active in punishing the alleged crime, started out and gathered up the stock, and men who had never owned a hoof in their lives from this time became cattle men.

"I had knowledge of all these circumstances, but I was no party to the illegal proceedings and had protested against them. These facts, aided perhaps by the memory of 'Mountain Meadows,' made them feel unsafe while I lived and ominous threats and accusations frequently reached me.

"At length I sent word that upon a certain day I would appear at the office of the Justice, and requested that the accusation be put in legal form and a fair trial given me. At the appointed time I went there, taking five trusty companions with me. We waited till nearly dark, but not one of my accusers appeared.

"We were about ten miles from home and concluded to stay where we were till morning. Some of the boys began to patronize the bar pretty freely, and at length a young fellow employed about the establishment beckoned me to come out. I followed him a short distance from the house and he said excitedly:

"Hardy, don't let those boys drink another drop. That whiskey is drugged, and just as sure as you come under the influence of it, you are all dead men! I was right here when those other boys were executed, and they were all in a helpless state of unconsciousness when it was done."

"Thanking him for his timely warning, I called the boys out and cautioned them, and they all quit drinking to the apparent displeasure of the bar-tender.

"We retired to the other room and prepared to pass the night together. Four of our party lay down upon the floor to sleep, while with a trusty comrade I prepared to keep a vigilant watch.

"It must have been about three o'clock in the morning when all was silent save the regular breathing of the sleepers, that I heard the sound of stealthy footsteps outside. The light had been purposely turned low, and I cautiously approached the window and looked out into the darkness. By the dim light of the stars I saw a number of men step from the shelter of the trees and stealthily approach the house.

"They paused in the shadow of the building and held a suppressed conversation.

"They've come," I whispered to my companion.

"I know it," he answered. "Shall I wake the boys?"

"No," I replied, "they will make a noise and I want to

let them think they are coming upon us unawares. Are you ready?"

"Yes," he answered hoarsely, but although I could detect the tremor of excitement in his voice, I knew that he was no coward.

"I could tell by the steady shuffling of muffled feet that the villains had removed their boots and were fast filling the adjoining room. There was neither lock nor bar upon the intervening door, and its only fastening, beside an ordinary latch, was a bench, which we had placed against it.

"I heard a whispered consultation, followed by the uncoiling of a rope, and our hearts beat audibly, as with every nerve strung to the utmost tension we listened to the ominous preparation, and knew that every second brought us nearer to a desperate encounter against fearful odds.

"At length some one lifted the latch and cautiously pushed against the door.

"The time had come, and in an instant I had

emptied my six-shooters into it, and a scene of the wildest excitement and confusion followed.

"Suddenly startled from their slumbers, the boys sprang to their feet with excited exclamations, demanding the cause of the uproar in the adjoining room, where the cowardly mob were struggling to reach the outside door, tumbling over one another, uttering loud and angry curses in their fear and confusion, and blocking the way in their disorderly retreat, while their excitement was every instant increased by the bullets which we sent whizzing through the door.

"Open the door and let us out among you, you cowardly pack of midnight assassins! Show your faces and let us see who you are!" shouted my companion, emphasizing every sentence with a revolver shot in the direction of the retreating desperadoes.

"In less than five minutes from the firing of the first bullet, all was silent save the excited breathing of our own men; the villains had fled from the house and sought refuge in the darkness, but with what further intentions we did not know.

"Boys, we've had a visit from Judge Lynch and his jury; what they'll do next is impossible to tell," I said as the last sound died away.

"We know what we'll do if they return," was the decisive reply, and with weapons ready for instant use, we waited for the dawn.

"But our enemies came not to fight; they expected to find defenseless men, and they made no further demonstration.

"When are you going to try it again?" I asked the bar-keeper after daylight appeared and we stepped from the room where we had passed the night.

"The face of the man was pale with fear and guilt, but in trembling tones, he protested his innocence.

"Don't stand there and lie! you mean, despicable sneaking cowardly coyote," said one of the boys indignantly, "but tell us the truth. What did they agree to give you to drug us past all power of resistance, when they came with their murderous intentions?"

"The man shook like a leaf, and still protested his innocence.

"Are you willing that we should serve you to a dish of the same sauce that you intended for us?" asked his questioner.

"The villain sank upon his knees and begged for mercy.

"Get up! you contemptible wretch!" I said. "We are no cowards to murder a man when we are six to one—even if he does deserve it. But I tell you to be careful hereafter, and we left him to reflect upon his own situation.

"This was only the beginning of my persecution. Members of that gang were upon my track for years, and may be yet for all that I know."

\$3.00 a day sure—see back page of this paper for full particulars.

D. W. Thompson, of Santa Barbara, Cal., has a saddle which is valued at \$4,000. The silver and gold used in its decoration are alone worth \$250.

Lord Dufferin, now over seventy years old, has set about the acquisition of a knowledge of the Persian language.

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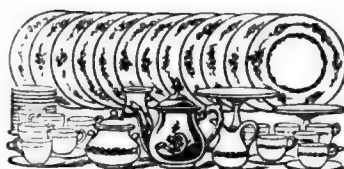
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"I had indigestion and dyspepsia, the doctors said, but I do not know what was the matter. I only know that I almost suffered death, especially when at a delicate period, my bowels were bad, and I had such pains in my back of a morning I could hardly get out of bed. When I had taken Ripans Tabules for two weeks, as directed, I was a new person. These are facts, and my friends can say the same."

The above words are from a letter written by a young lady of Holton, La., whose cousin recommended the Tabules.

A new style packet containing TEN RIPANS TABULES in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some drug stores—for FIVE CENTS. This low-priced sort is intended for the poor and the economical. One dozen of the five-cent cartons (120 tabules) can be had by mail by sending forty-eight cents to the RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, No. 10 Spruce Street, New York—or a single carton (TEN TABULES) will be sent for five cents.

SILVER CAKE BASKET



FREE

We have lately taken a large amount of triple plate silverware on a debt and will send you this Elegant, Gold lined Silver Cake Basket free, all charges paid for a club of seven subscribers to COMFORT at 25c. each. This Cake Basket is of the latest pattern and will wear a life time. It is the finest silver plate, highly decorated with beautiful patent rolled edge. We only have a few of them left so get up your club of seven subscribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you will always enjoy it. You can sell this basket for \$3.98 in a minute. If you can't get up the club, send us \$1.38 cash and we will send the Basket by express and include one year's subscription to "COMFORT." We also have a fine five Bottle Silver Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish at the same price if you prefer either one to the Basket. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

HA! HA! HA! FUN ALIVE!

The Comical Mirror.



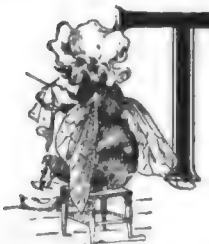
A handsome convex mirror in a case suitable for carrying in the pocket. For many years the funniest and most laughable attraction in nearly every museum has been the large convex mirrors in which a person appears drawn out as long and narrow as a bean pole, or flattened down like a gridiron with a face as broad as a cellar door. This mirror produces the same effect as the large and expensive mirrors in the museums. By holding the mirror in an upright position stout people look thin and in a horizontal position thin people look stout; anyone can recognize themselves at once, but their features are so distorted and their general appearance so changed that they cannot fail to have a good laugh over it. If you have a friend (lady or gentleman) who think they are a little better looking than anyone else, let them take a peep into the mirror and it will take them down a peg or two—either the "short and fat" view or the "long and slim" view are stunners and will cure the blues every time. Send for one it will afford you lots of fun.



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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE holiday season being now a thing of the past for a twelve-month, we can turn our attention to our own needs, which have been somewhat neglected in trying to show our goodwill toward our friends.

There are many people who do not know that they can buy perfumed silks, which may be used in numberless ways. For the lining of bureau drawers this is especially desirable, as it takes up none of the space and yet imparts to the contents a delicate odor. Glove and handkerchief cases may be made of this silk much more easily than when interlined with batting upon which powdered sachet is used. All of the desirable odors may be obtained, and usually the lavender, violet, rose and heliotrope silks are scented with the flower of the same name; the white silks have either the white rose or white lilac odor.

Pincushions this season are very peculiar in shape, reminding one somewhat of a sausage. We have for sometime had the long and narrow cushion, but to have one narrow and as long as the dresser is wide, is something new, and, it must be admitted, not as attractive as those of smaller shape; however, it is one of the fads. These cushions are made of satin and trimmed with a full ruffle of lace or gauze ribbon, finished by a narrow beading of lace into which is run baby ribbon which finishes off at each corner in a rosette made of numberless loops of the ribbon. When one is expert at water color painting, or, if not expert can do



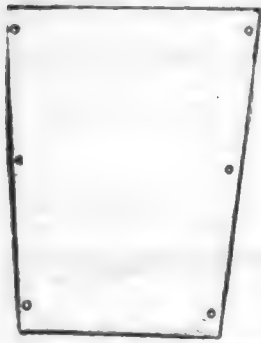
ONE OF THE NEW CUSHIONS.

ordinary work, the flowers on the lace used may be colored and so add greatly to the beauty of the article. Gauze ribbons in all the delicate tones may be used for the ruffles instead of lace, and are particularly pretty on the square cushions. This ribbon comes in five-inch depth, and when pleated fully around the edge of the cushion makes a very pretty finish, as it stands out prettily, being a little stiffer than lace. A yellow gauze ribbon covered with yellow or white polka dots and having a satin edge is one of the prettiest used, and the top of the cushion may be covered with a piece of the same, put on before the ruffle, or the top of cushion may be left plain and a small lace mat used. This latter plan is perhaps the better, as the mat can be laundered without disturbing the ruffle.

We illustrate herewith a scrap basket, particularly appropriate for chamber, nursery or sewing room. The one here shown is covered with china silk in pink morning glory pattern, and is lined with light blue paper—but denim could be used equally well. The silk, however, being thin and soft, is pliable and more easily kept in place with paste than the heavier material, and when four baskets can be covered with fifty-two inches of thirty-inch silk, it cannot be called expensive.

To make one of these baskets get cardboard an eighth of an inch thick. Cut with a sharp knife four pieces to measure eleven inches on each side, nine inches across the top and seven inches across the bottom. Cut one piece seven inches square. This is for the bottom.

Cut four pieces of silk of same shape as the four pieces of cardboard, but one inch larger all around. Lay a piece of silk on a table, and a piece of the cardboard onto it, and turn over and paste down all four edges. Flour paste is the best to use. Have some good, heavy, unglazed paper, of color to harmonize with the material used on the outside, and cut four pieces one-half inch smaller all round than the cardboard. After the silk is firmly pasted on to each piece, paste one of the pieces of paper onto the inside. Treat the square of cardboard in same manner, but use paper for both sides of it. Make three holes through each side of four pieces, and tie the pieces together with



SIDE AND BOTTOM OF BASKET.

narrow ribbon. The bottom of the basket is fastened only on one side.

After the sides are tied together, stand the basket up and lay the bottom into it, about one-half inch from the lowest edge, and on one

side of the bottom paste a strip of the heavy paper, a continuation of the same piece extending for a couple of inches up one of the sides of the basket. This will hold it in place, and will also act as a hinge,—for the basket may be closed flat by shutting the bottom up against the side to which it is hinged, and then the sides will flatten together and so condense into the size of one of the sides. This makes it convenient for laying away in a drawer, or for packing to send away.

Here are a few suggestions from a reader who is interested in our corner:

"Don't hermetically seal all the sunny windows in your house, with outside and inside shutters, shades, sash curtains, lace draperies, and heavy, silk-lined over draperies, and then wonder why your children are so pale, feeble and fretful.

"Don't, little woman, scold because your father cannot afford to have your bedroom 'done over' for you, and new furniture put in. Buy a quart of paint, a brush and a little turpentine, put on a big sleeved apron and an old pair of gloves, and paint the woodwork yourself. Scrape the paint from the dingy old furniture, buy another pot of white paint, and still another of white enamel, and transform the old bedroom set. For window draperies get white muslin flowered with chrysanthemums woven through it. Embroider the chrysanthemums in pink, line your curtains with pink silkoline and tie them back with pink satin ribbons. Use more of the same material for covers for dressing-case, table and wash-stand, and for spread and pillow shams for the bed. Paper the walls with an inexpensive white and gold paper, cover the floor with Japanese matting with a bit of a rug here and there, and you have a room fit for a queen."

You can easily make three dollars a day working for us. See the back page of this paper.

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Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

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Give neck and bust measure when ordering. Will send cape C. O. D. try it on and if you find it exactly as represented and cheaper than any other house wears to offer pay the agent \$2.98 and charges and the cape is yours or will forward cape by mail upon receipt of price and 40 cents postage. Money cheerfully refunded if not satisfactory.

FREE our beautifully illustrated Catalogue No. 31, of Capes, Jackets, Suits, Skirts, Waists, Fur, Children's Cloaks, etc., at January clearing price. M. PHILIPSBORN, 139 State St., CHICAGO Please mention COMFORT when you write.

\$30 MACHINES, \$13.25. The celebrated 3-drawer Hines Sewing Machine has been reduced to \$13.25. Just think of it! Furnished with best bent cover, complete set of attachments and guaranteed for 30 years. Our immense Catalogue tells of many similar bargains in Furniture, Carpets, Draperies, Bedding, Crockery, Stoves, Baby Carriages, Refrigerators, Cloves, Silverware, Upholstery Goods, Mirrors, Picture Frames, Lamps, etc., and are mailed Free. We are saving money for 100,000 customers. Why not for you? Address JULIUS HINES & SON, Baltimore, Md. Dept.

4 BUGGY WHEELS \$6.50 HIGH GRADE, HARVEY'S PATENT, tired and beaded, height 3 ft. 4 in., 4 ft. 8 in. or 4 ft. Spokes 1-1/8 or 1-3/4 in. For any other sizes send for catalogue. Cut this ad out and send to us with ONE DOLLAR, state size wheel wanted, and we will send them by freight U. S. D. EXAMINE THEM at your freight depot and then pay freight agent balance \$5.50, and freight charges. WE SELL Buggy Tops at \$6.95, Wagon Umbrellas, \$1.50, Ironed Buggy Poles, painted, \$3.25, Ironed Buggy Shafts, painted, \$2.00, Ironed Neck yokes, each 35c., Ironed Wagon Singletrees, 17c., 19c., and 27c., Ironed Wagon Eveners, each 42c., Trimmings Buggy Neck yokes, 35c., Top Buggies, \$23.95 and up. Send for Free Catalogue. SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (Inc.) Chicago, Ill.

DETECTIVE. Shrewd, reliable man wanted in every locality. Act under orders; no experience necessary. For full particulars write American Detective Ass'n, Indianapolis, Ind.

GOLD DETECTOR for locating Gold, Silver and other minerals. In a pocket case. Also Rods and Spanish needles. Circular 2c. stamp. B. G. STAUFFER, Harrisburg, Pa.

SURPRISE REVOLVER

The greatest hit of the year. A perfect imitation of six shooter revolver. By pressing small rubber bulb discharges stream of pure water. You can have more fun with this cute gun than with a box of live monkeys and no harm in the joke. Every one laughs and you can have 500 good jokes a day. Selling like wild fire. Get one at once and have a pile of fun with your friends. Sent postpaid with a three months' trial subscription for only six cents; or 5 for 22 cents.

PREMIUM OFFER. Send us 37 cents for a trial yearly subscription and we will send you two Surprise Revolvers, charges all prepaid. SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

WANTED RELIABLE MEN

We want at once reliable men in every locality, local or traveling, to introduce a new discovery and keep our show cards tacked up on trees, fences and bridges throughout town and country; steady employment; commission or salary; **\$65.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES** not to exceed \$2.50 per day; money deposited in any bank at start if desired. Write for particulars.

THE GLOBE MEDICAL ELECTRIC CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.

USED STAMPS WANTED

\$5.00 to \$20.00 per 100 Paid for used or cancelled U. S. postage stamps of the sorts used to-day. Higher prices paid for old stamps. Here is a chance where any person can actually earn money easily, gathering used stamps. Send 10 cents for price list, so you can begin collecting stamps and selling them without delay. Address Reliable Stamp Concern Dept. C 168 Elm St., New York City.

\$50.00 GOLD GIVEN AWAY!

HERE IS A PUZZLE. We will give Fifty Dollars who will cut out the black pieces shown in this advertisement and paste them on a blank piece of paper so as to form a square. Try it! The money will be paid April 15th, 1899; if more than one successful contestant the money will be equally divided. The only condition is that every person sending in their name must sell for us 24 of our Arc-Light Electric Lamp Wicks at Five Cents each and return to us \$1.20 for same, and as a premium for selling the wicks we will give a beautiful Gold Filled Ring, set with an imported stone, which will puzzle an expert to distinguish from a genuine diamond which would sell for \$100.00; if a different premium is desired a selection can be made from our large premium list sent you with the wicks. No money required in advance, send for wicks, sell them and return \$1.20, and any premium selected will be promptly sent; we will take the wicks back if you cannot sell them. Our wicks are something entirely new, they give a light nearly equal to the Electric Light, being chemically treated with carbon by means of which the white electric light is attainable. Burns one year, no trimming required, no smoke, making kerosene light equal to electricity. Do not confound our wicks with any of the so-called ever-burning or indestructible wicks. If you sell the first lot more will be sent if desired, and we will allow you a handsome cash commission for selling them. If you do not wish to contest for the prize, we should be pleased to have you order wicks and sell them to secure the premium. Write to-day and the first lot promptly. Address, THE ARC-LIGHT CO., Box 5308, BOSTON, MASS.

RHEUMATISM IS DEAD!

Long Live OXIE, the King of Remedies that Killed it.

No more infernal tortures, no more roastings of the flesh with red hot irons, no more lightning shocks from the electric battery or dosings with dangerous drugs. **RHEUMATISM HAS BEEN CONQUERED** by Oxien, the triumph of medicine, the Godsend of the age. Absolute cures are now certain, and Oxien is making them every day. In this connection

WE HAVE A WORD TO SAY. Oxien was last year put to the test as a remedy for Rheumatism and it made a record of absolute cures in Acute Rheumatism, frequently called rheumatic fever, Pericarditis (inflammation of the investing membrane of the heart), Endocarditis (inflammation of the living membrane of the heart), subacute rheumatism, sometimes applied to the less severe attacks of the disease, chronic rheumatism, which swells and twists the joints and sciatitis, or neuralgia of the sciatic nerve. In fact Oxien is guaranteed to cure Rheumatism in any form. Thousands jump for joy and many write as follows: Received OXIE O. K. Found it far superior to what you represent. Have tried everything I could hear of for rheumatism. For ten years I have been crippled up with this terrible disease. Last fall had one whole year. Could not turn or find myself and when I was able to walk on crutches (which I did for four years) was crooked and unable to straighten up, but Oxien did it and you can imagine how happy I am now. Yours sincerely, Geo. F. Lawton, Olympia, Wash., Feb. 9th, 1898. This momentous offer we make in order to more thoroughly introduce this amazing rheumatism remedy in the United States and Canada. None but those who will give us their word that they either suffer from rheumatism, or are afraid of it through hereditary tendencies will be considered entitled to free treatment. Therefore, if you want a box of Oxien send at once, yes today. Write plainly as our clerks are badly rushed. **THE GIANT OXIE CO., Box 1120, Augusta, Maine.**

A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE AND A FAMILY BIBLE FOR \$1.89.

DELIVERED AT YOUR HOME.

This edition excels all others in the excellence of paper and exquisite topography, being printed from an entirely new set of plates costing \$20,000. The size of page is 12x9 inches, the print large and clear, and there are TEN BEAUTIFUL FULL-PAGE PHOTOGRAPHIC PICTURES of rare artistic excellence and some of the most superb masterpieces of Modern Paintings, being in harmony with the justly celebrated OXFORD TEACHER'S BIBLES. They are bound in fine Morocco Buckram Paneled Sides, and contain the Old and New Testaments, authorized version, the best concordance extant, and the following helpful features: A table of the passages in the Old Testament quoted in the New; a Chronological Index; an analysis of the Old and New Testaments; an account of the date of writing the books of the New Testament; an index of the Holy Bible; a short description of the Holy Land; a table of kindred forbidden to marry; table of Scripture weights and measures; an alphabetical table of proper names; also a very neat, plain Marriage Certificate and Family Record. Our New Bible is just what the people want; excellent paper, handsome illustrations, good, clear print, handsome and durable bindings, and last but not least, an EXTRAORDINARY FAMILY RECORD, entirely different from that contained in any other Bibles in the country. The print is of large size, clear and distinct, just right for grandfather and grandmother to read without their glasses, while the full-page engravings will interest and instruct the little children. It is the book for every member of the family.

Our price by mail or express, charges fully paid to your post-office, is only \$1.89. Only think of it! A Bible, 12x9 inches, weighing more than four pounds, for \$1.89! In addition to the Bible we will give a year's subscription to this paper; or raise a club of eight subscribers at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each, or a club of 16 at our special club rate of 15 cents a year each, and we will send it free as a premium. Address **GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.**



KITCHEN CHATS.

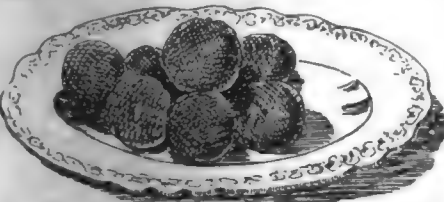
CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



HE old adage "fingers were made before forks," says a reader of this department, "receives apt illustration in the table manners of the Neapolitan lazzarini, or beggars. While in Naples some years ago, I paid a visit to a restaurant frequented by these gentry.

"Plunging down a steep flight of stone steps, I found myself in a long low cellar. It was dimly lighted by a few small bracket lamps burning rancid olive oil. Running almost the entire length of the apartment was a wide board, nailed to stanchions set in the bare earth. This board was quite innocent of covering, and around it, seated on little tripod stools, was gathered a motley horde of men. Before each person stood a wooden bowl, and these bowls constituted the entire table furniture. At the farther end of the room a very dirty curtain screened the mysteries of the kitchen from vulgar gaze.

"As I was interestedly noting these details, and listening to the Babel of sounds arising from around the board, a momentary hush fell upon the assemblage. From behind the curtain appeared a greasy, perspiring Italian, bearing in his arms a huge wooden vessel, resembling, as much as anything, an overgrown chopping tray. This individual was naked from the waist up, and was not the most savory looking attendant one could wish. He marched down one side of the table, and deposited his tray in the center of it. I then saw that it was filled with yards of steaming macaroni. Taking a long wooden fork, the man speared out great bunches of the slippery viand, and distributed them impartially among the score and more of bowls eagerly extended to him.



BUTTER BALLS.

"A scene at once ensued that was unique, amusing and repulsive. As soon as each person received his allotted portion he inserted the fingers of both hands in the bowl, and clutching a tangled mass of macaroni, held it aloft till the longest ends hovered just above his mouth. Then arrived the moment of his enjoyment. Opening his mouth to its utmost capacity, he lowered the ends of the macaroni into the yawning chasm, and with grunts of deepest satisfaction, slowly sucked in the glutinous mass until his fingers were empty.

"This peculiar operation was repeated again and again until the contents of the bowls were exhausted. Then, licking their fingers and chops in the most unctuous manner, the customers arose, one after the other, and crept lazily up into the street to look for some sunny nook in which to sleep away the afternoon. The meal had cost them each but two cents, and their slumbers certainly could not have been haunted by dreams of undue extravagance."

Now while this isn't the way in which we enjoy macaroni and spaghetti, we do enjoy it, and we give herewith some recipes for cooking this healthful and much liked food. We will use the word macaroni, but spaghetti may be used in exactly the same way, being made of the same ingredients—the only difference being in the size of the sticks.

BAKED MACARONI WITH CHEESE.

Boil three-fourths of a cup of macaroni in two quarts of boiling water and one teaspoonful salt, for twenty minutes, or until soft; drain in a strainer, pour over it cold water to prevent the pieces from adhering. Put a layer of the boiled macaroni into a buttered baking dish, sprinkle with grated cheese; repeat until dish is full; then pour over white sauce, cover with buttered crumbs, and bake until crumbs are brown.

WHITE SAUCE.

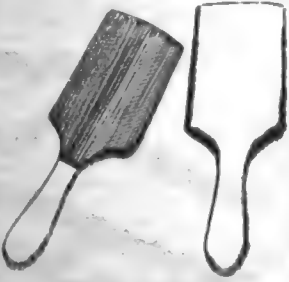
Melt two tablespoons butter, add two tablespoons flour with one-half teaspoon salt, and pour on slowly one and one-half cups scalded milk.

MACARONI WITH TOMATO SAUCE.

Reheat boiled macaroni in one and one-half cups tomato sauce, sprinkle with grated cheese, and serve; or prepare as baked with cheese, using tomato sauce in place of white sauce.

TOMATO SAUCE.

One-half can tomatoes, one slice onion, three tablespoons butter, two and one-half tablespoons flour, one-fourth teaspoon salt, one-eighth teaspoon pepper. Cook onion with tomato fifteen minutes, rub through a strainer and add butter and flour, to which seasonings have been added; cook all together.



BUTTER PADDLES.

MACARONI ITALIENNE.

Three-fourths cup of macaroni; two quarts boiling water; one-half onion; two cloves; one and one-half cups tomato sauce; one-half cup grated cheese; two tablespoons wine and one-half tablespoon butter.

Cook macaroni in boiling salted water, with onion stuck with the cloves; drain, remove onion, reheat in tomato sauce, add butter, cheese and wine.

MACARONI A LA MILANAISE.

Cook macaroni as above, reheat in tomato sauce, add six sliced mushrooms, two slices cooked smoked beef tongue cut in strips, and one-half cup grated cheese.

Macaroni is usually broken into short pieces, before cooking. Spaghetti is cooked in long strips; to accomplish this, hold the quantity to be cooked in the hand and dip the ends in to the boiling water; as it softens it will bend, and may be coiled under the water.

So much for macaroni and spaghetti.

Now we want to speak of the daintiest and easiest way of serving butter at the table. So many people have a large piece of butter put on the table, and then some one has to neatly (or otherwise) cut this into small pieces for each individual. Avoid this trouble and at the same time add to the appearance of your table by having butter balls or pats made before the meal is served. Get a first-class pair of wooden paddles, costing fifty cents a pair; cheaper ones may be had, as cheap as ten cents, but they are not at all satisfactory, and as a pair of paddles lasts for years, fifty cents is not an extravagant price to pay for them.

To make the balls, put the paddles into a bowl of ice water until thoroughly chilled; then a piece of butter about the size of a walnut should be taken up on one paddle, and rolled with the other until it forms a dainty ball, all criss-crossed with dents from the indentations on the paddles. Drop the balls as fast as made into a bowl of ice water, and make a dozen or two at a time; if the family is small these will last two or three days and if kept in a bowl of ice water all the time will be as crisp and fresh as though made fresh for each meal.

A CASE OF PERFUMERY FOR YOU.

We have a great quantity of perfumery in cases which we wish to give to our friends without expense. It is most delicate and lasting and combines the various perfumes and fragrance of the flowers. Placed in a bureau drawer will impart delicious odor to all clothing, kerchiefs, etc. Sweeter than the mignonette. Send us four cents pay for shipping expenses and will send it with copy of our illustrated bargain book.

S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

THE YANKEE FIRE-KINDLER

Patented 3 years. Greatest Seller for Agents ever invented. Sample with terms prepaid. 10c. YANKEE KINDLER CO., OLNEY, ILL. ST. ST. R.

HAIR SWITCH 65 CENTS.

WE SELL HUMAN HAIR SWITCHES to match any hair at from 65c to \$3.25, the equal of switches that retail at \$2.00 to \$5.00.

OUR OFFER: Cut this ad out and send to us, inclose a good sized sample of the exact shade wanted, and cut it out as near the roots as possible, inclose our special price quoted and 5 cents extra to pay postage, and we will make the switch to match your hair exact, and send to you by mail, postpaid, and if you are not perfectly satisfied, return it and we will immediately refund your money.

OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE AS FOLLOWS: 2-oz. switch, 20-in. long, long stem, 65c; short stem, 90c; 3-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, \$1.25; 3-oz. 24-in. long, short stem, \$1.50; 4-oz. 24-in. long, short stem, \$2.25; 5-oz. 24-in. long, short stem, \$3.25. WE GUARANTEE OUR WORK the highest grade on the market.

Order at once and get these special prices. Your money returned if you are not pleased. Write for Free Catalogue of Hair Goods. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) Chicago, Ill. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

FREE



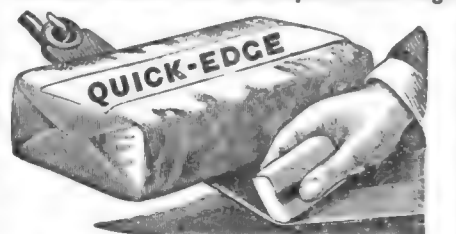
56 PIECES FULL-SIZE, For Families.

There is no fake about this; send your address at once. Every person answering this advertisement can get a Handsomely Decorated Set, absolutely free—we mean it. There is no trick, no juggling with words, nothing but what is honest. Our offer is in black & white, no misrepresentation of any sort; everybody can receive a cut advantage of it, & we positively will not go back on it no matter what it costs us. We wish to put our paper on top, & will do anything to get it in the lead quickly. It is one of the best & most interesting Fashion, News & Story Papers in existence. You can prove all we say, the absolute truth, if you will send us 10c. silver or 10c. stamps to cover expense of postage, mailing, addressing & packing, & we will send you the paper for 3 months free. Every one can have their choice of Breakfast, Dinner or Tea Set Free. All sets carefully boxed & packed at our expense.

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QUICK-EDGE

For Razors and all Tools that Require a Razor Edge



Quick-Edge will sharpen the dullest Razor in two minutes and give it a fine smooth cutting edge. If Quick-Edge is used your razor will always be sharp and never need honing. It makes old razors good as new, and is wanted not to injure the finest razor in the land. Don't pay 25 cents to have your razor honed when a cake of Quick-Edge will keep it in perfect order for years. Quick-Edge will put a fine smooth cutting razor edge on any tool in one-tenth the time it takes to sharpen it in any other way. Razors and all edge tools will hold their edge three times as long, and cut better. Why? Because Quick-Edge is a scientific preparation and makes a smooth strong edge that will cut well, and wear well. Every man who shaves needs Quick-Edge, every family, every shop, and every factory has some edge tools that need Quick-Edge. Anyone can use it successfully, and full directions come with every cake. The price is 15 cents a cake. Agents can sell it to almost every man, at nearly every house. If you sell 100 cakes a day, your profit is \$3.75. Many agents are doing as well. If you need work order a dozen or a gross and try the business; if you do not need work, order a cake, and know the luxury of having a razor, a knife or other edge tool always in order, sharp and ready for use. Price: One cake, 15 cents, postpaid; one dozen cakes, \$1.00 postpaid; one gross cakes, \$6.00 by express. Address, GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

SEND US ONE DOLLAR

freight, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your nearest freight depot, and if you find it exactly as represented, one of the greatest instruments you ever saw, equal to any organ you can buy at home for \$100.00 to \$150.00, better tone, better finish, more durable and handsomer than any organ ever advertised by any organ maker, pay your freight agent OUR SPECIAL 90-DAY OFFER PRICE, \$44.95, less the \$1.00, or \$43.95 and freight charges.

THIS, OUR ROYAL GRAND ORGAN,

is one of the largest, most elaborate, most durable, sweetest-toned instruments ever made, equal to organs that retail at \$100.00 to \$200.00. From the illustration shown, which is engraved direct from a photograph, you can form some idea of its beautiful appearance. Made from solid quarter-sawn oak, antique finish, or black walnut, as desired; elaborately carved and ornamented, hand rubbed, hand polished and decorated, latest 1899 trust frame, stands 7 feet high, 4 feet long and 3 feet wide and weighs 400 pounds. MADE BY THE BEST ORGAN MAKER IN AMERICA, has the genuine Skinner bellows of silk and rubber cloth, automatic air valve, Staylor pedal stops, Hasleton action—the finest known effects, perfect action, strong, difficult to displace. All metal parts are of finest tempered Straydon coppered and silvered steel wire.

THE ROYAL GRAND contains 5 octaves, 11 stops, 3 sets of reeds as follows: 1 set round pipe-like Principal reeds of 24 notes, 1 set exquisitely pure, sweet Melodia reeds of 27 notes, 1 set rich, mellow, smooth Diapason reeds of 24 notes, 1 set charmingly brilliant Celeste reeds of 27 notes; 122 in all. OUR ROYAL GRAND ORGAN possesses the good qualities of every high-grade organ made, with the defects of none. The highest grade work possible to produce. WE FURNISH FREE with every Royal Grand organ a handsome organ stool, and the best organ instruction book published. GUARANTEED 25 YEARS. With every Royal Grand Organ we issue a written binding 5 years guarantee. By its terms and conditions if any part gives out we repair it free of charge. TRY IT ONE MONTH, and we refund your money if you are not perfectly satisfied. 500 of these organs will be sold for \$44.95. Order at once; do not delay for one day.

OUR RELIABILITY IS ESTABLISHED. If you have not dealt before about us, write the publisher of this paper, or the Metropolitan National Bank, National Bank of the Republic or Bank of Commerce, Chicago, or German Exchange Bank, New York, or any railroad or express company in Chicago. We have a capital of over \$150,000.00, occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago and employ over 800 people in our own building. We SELL ORGANS AT \$22.00 AND UP; PIANOS \$125.00 AND UP; also everything in musical instruments at lowest wholesale prices. Write for free special organ, piano and musical instrument catalogue. Address SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO, ILL.

MACKINTOSHES FREE

Ladies, Boys and Girls who will sell a few boxes of our Toilet Soaps to friends we will give absolutely free a high grade Mackintosh, double cape, velvet collar, plaid lined. Only a few hours of your leisure time required. No money required. Illustrated list of 85 premiums including Bicycles, Cameras, Mandolins, Sewing Machines, Guns, Watches, etc., sent free. Write us at once, this offer may not appear again. H. H. DAWSON & CO., 90 State Street, Dept. 72 Chicago, Ill.

LEARN A PROFESSION in 10 days that will net you \$25 a day the rest of your life. Ladies or gentlemen. Address with stamp. PROF. S. A. WELTMER, Nevada, Mo.

THE HAIR TELLS ALL

IF SICK send a lock of your hair, name, age, sex and 4 cents in stamps and I will diagnose your case FREE and tell you what will cure your ailments. Address DR. J. C. HATHORP, Dept. 15 Grand Rapids, Mich.



LOTS OF MAIL FREE!!

Put your name and address in our guaranteed Agents' Directory which goes whirling all over America to firms who will send you free samples of papers, magazines, pictures, cards, medicines, etc., etc. You will receive lots of mail. We want 100,000 new names at once and in order to obtain them quickly we will send you by return mail Free of Cost, all of the following articles: One fine colored map of the U. S., 10 new songs, Coin value Guide, 12 comic pictures, half dozen best agents' articles, worth \$1.50, Pictures of all the Presidents, 25 pictures of actresses. We will also send you a 25 cent due bill, which will entitle you to select 25 cents worth of goods absolutely FREE from our Mammoth Catalogue of 3,267 Scarce and Curious articles. Send your name to-day and enclose 10 cents to pay postage, packing, etc. Peoples' Directory Co., Dept. C Station S, New York City, N. Y.

A \$1.00 ALVAH CAMERA FREE!

THIS NEW ALVAH CAMERA, COMPLETE WITH DEVELOPING OUTFIT

AND ALL MATERIALS FOR TAKING, MAKING AND DEVELOPING PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE SENT FREE AS A PRESENT TO ANY OF OUR SUBSCRIBERS OR READERS ON THE EASY CONDITIONS HEREINAFTER EXPLAINED.

THIS COMPLETE OUTFIT COSTS YOU NOTHING. We get no money for it, but we give it to you free as a present in consideration of a very slight effort on your part.



Send us \$4 months' subscription to COMFORT, and we will send you a better \$1.00 camera, which will be payment in full for the subscription, and our paper will be sent you for 24 months, and in addition to sending our paper for 24 months we will send you by mail, all charges prepaid by us, this handsome new ALVAH CAMERA and complete outfit, as illustrated and described below.

IF YOU ARE AN OLD SUBSCRIBER you can renew your subscription by this offer, simply state the fact, and your new subscription will commence from the date your present subscription expires. IF YOU ARE AN OLD SUBSCRIBER and do not wish to extend your subscription, get the subscription of some friend or neighbor.

UNDERSTAND YOU GET THIS COMPLETE CAMERA AND OUTFIT FOR NOTHING.

that you enclose fifty cents for 24 months' subscription to our paper.

THIS IS A REGULAR \$1.00 ALVAH CAMERA COMPLETE WITH DEVELOPING OUTFIT and all materials for making pictures. It is a camera that retails regularly at \$1.00, and is in every way the equal of other cameras that retail at \$1.00 without developing outfit and picture-making materials.

THE ALVAH CAMERA TAKES PHOTOGRAPHS IN 1/25 SECOND. IT USES REGULAR GLASS PLATES (3 1/2 x 4 1/2). SCAPES AND ALL PICTURES 2 1/2 x 3 1/2 INCHES. IT USES REGULAR GLASS PLATES (3 1/2 x 4 1/2).

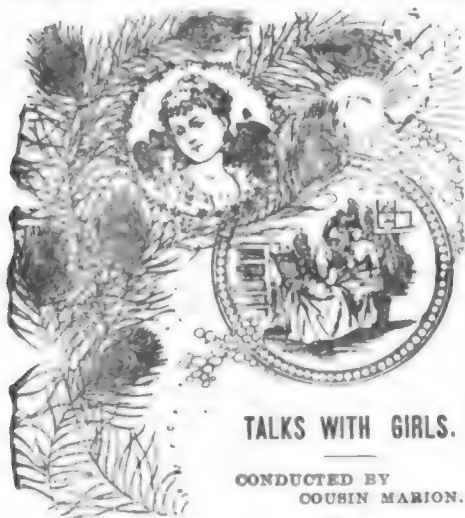
It comes with a complete outfit, so that you are not compelled to buy an outfit afterwards. The Camera and outfit are all securely packed in a box and consist of the following articles: 1 Alvah Camera, 1 Box Dry Plates, 1 Package Hypo, 1 Printing Rack, 1 Developing Tray, 1 Package Developer, 1 Package Silver Paper, 1 Set Directions, 1 Toning Tray, 1 Package Fixing Powder, 1 Package Baby Paper.

HOW WE CAN MAKE THIS OFFER.

WE HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ONE OF THE LARGEST CONCERNS in America to supply us with these Cameras. Our contract with them is such that we have reduced the price to a mere trifle above the actual cost to manufacture; a price so low that every reader can now have a camera with complete picture-making outfit for nothing.

YOU GET THE ENTIRE OUTFIT FREE AS A PRESENT BY MAIL OR EXPRESS at our option, all charges paid by us. All we ask is that you secure for us one subscriber or renew your own subscription as explained above.

THIS \$1.00 CAMERA IS FREE. Any subscriber can get it; any reader can get it; anyone who sees this offer has the privilege of sending us his or her subscription, receiving our paper for the full period named and receiving free as a present the camera, developing outfit and everything necessary for taking and making pictures. Address your order plainly to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

Happy New Year to you all, my dears, this new year of 1899, with the next one the last of the nineteenth century; and Father Time keeps pushing along until he too shall have gone over the border into eternity to meet the millions who have preceded him. None of us can know what this New Year may bring to us in smiles or tears, but I know this, that to each and all of you who read these lines I wish all the good that may come to mortals, and pray earnestly that you may all hold yourselves worthy.

The first one to be answered in the new year is from an "Interested Reader" in the pleasant little town of Wellsville, Ohio, and she wants to know if she should give up a young man, whom she likes and who is all right except his lack of money, because her father wants her to get a richer man. I do not wish to counsel disobedience to parents, but in a case like this, I would risk a parent's displeasure rather than a life of unhappiness.

A Questioner, Greenleaf, Kans.—You ask more questions than I have room to answer, dear. I will say though that you can do very much towards conquering your bad temper if you will think for a minute, just one minute, before you speak, and then speak very slowly. That is the way to make people "love and admire" you, too, for if you speak carefully you will only say pleasant things of people.

Rosebud, Kempton, Ills.—Don't accept the young man you like very much when he is away, but don't when he is around. As it happens, a husband is around a good deal, and your married life would scarcely be a rhapsody under such circumstances.

Kathryn, Brownstown, Ind.—It does not make any difference how long the young fellow has been going with you, he ought to call you "Miss Kathryn." It is so much more like the old time politeness.

Backwoods, Squirrel Creek, Va.—A wedding breakfast is breakfast chiefly in name. It is really a luncheon, and the giver may use her own taste and judgment in serving it.

A Reader, Waynesburg, Ga.—The words of the song "Only Just to Say Farewell," which you submit, are in no sense poetry, as verse goes, but they are quite up to the modern sentimental song standard, and if you have good music, there is no reason why your song will not be fairly successful.

Dorothy, Ernestine and Carrie, Sylvan Center, Mich.—It is quite proper to accompany an older unmarried lady and her "gentleman friend"—but don't for goodness' sake say "gentleman friend" to an entertainment if they are willing. (2) It is just as well for girls of sixteen not to accept presents from men. (3) Put off the buggy riding and the boat riding and the smiling at young men until you are older and out of school. Kids of sixteen are not the wisest creatures in the world.

S. D. J. Dana.—There is really no use for you to waste postage on writing about money awaiting American heirs in England, but if you will do it, send your inquiry to Secretary, Embassy of the United States, London, Eng.

Peach Blossom, Starfield, Mo.—If the young man is a "sport" as you say, which of course cannot be nice, you had better let him pass. If he is in love with you he ought to say so, whether he is a "sport" or not. (2) The sentences you quote are common cheap slang, that don't mean anything much better.

S. R. M., Hansonville, Va.—It is customary and correct, when an engagement is broken, to return all letters. And do not follow them with a "saucy" letter. (2) It is not correct with a young man you never saw.

Green Eye, San Bernadino, Cal.—You will never be happy on earth if you let yourself be foolishly jealous. Let the young man call on other girls if he wants to. If you cannot trust him how can you possibly love him? And why shouldn't other young men call on you? You will have a lovely married life if you begin in this way.

M. F., St. Paul, Minn.—When a man squeezes a lady's hand in a dance, it means that he is ready for a flirtation and should be frowned down at once. I believe most men do it, whenever they get a chance.

Sweet Marie, Rockville, Ind.—A suitable present for a young man at Christmas or any time is an umbrella, a scarf pin, some little silver match safe or other pocket utensil, or something to meet any special taste he may have.

Detroit Girl, Detroit, Mich.—Step-children cannot marry, even though they have not been brought up together. The daughter of a widower, who marries a widow with a son, might marry the son, but not nearer than that.

M. E. D., Wilmington, N. C.—I know nothing of the companies you mention, but it is just as well to be sure you are going to get something for your money before you give it up. Everybody is after money, and if you have any, hold on to it until you see its equivalent coming.

Clementine, Tyler, Mich.—It is a beautiful thing to wait for the one you love until he is ready to marry, but it is not so beautiful to be fooled. Your own sense and knowledge must teach you something in such a case. (2) No, I would not advise a girl to marry a man who tells her he will be affectionate enough after he is married. Marriage doesn't always make people affectionate.

Miss Zoo, Independence, Iowa.—An escort may be invited into your house if it is still early in the evening. (2) He should not stop at the gate, but go to the door with you. (3) There is no set form of speech to be used in asking to extend any courtesy. (4) Reds are more becoming to brunettes, but nearly any color is becoming if not too pronounced. (5) Ask any druggist for a good hair tonic. One is about as good as another. (6) There is no cure for a "spooney" young man. Marriage sometimes helps to change him for the better, but he will nearly always be silly. And usually it isn't his wife who is the object of it. (7) If you can't talk to your company and he is stupid, I can't tell you what to do. (8) Yes, your girl friend's "beau" may bring a friend of his to call on you, if she comes with him, seeing that you do not know him. (9) As a rule the man should precede the woman, unless she knows the way better, as for instance going to her new church. (10) Yes, a lady may accept the escort of a gentleman home whom she has never met more than once, if he is the proper person for her to know.

Delia, Ottumwa, Iowa.—Consult a physician. (2) To reach an author write a letter to him or her in care of the periodical in which you saw the name. It will be forwarded.

Music, Paris, Ills.—You might be of great assist-

ance to your mother if you left school; and if you read carefully, you might not miss the school so much. Home employment, that will pay anything, is hard to get, and as for finding a millionaire who will give you a musical education, I fear that is utterly hopeless.

Luckie, Marksville, La.—You are of the brunette type, judging from the hair. (2) As to the young man, nothing can be done unless his own heart directs him to you. I believe in the efficacy of prayer, but not in making a man love where he doesn't want to. A heart is not to be won, though it—or the person in which it is located—is frequently bought. Are you poor? (3) Mourning is usually worn two years.

Annie and Bell, St. Paul, Minn.—Yes, it is proper to accept the attentions of one man and correspond with another, provided no engagement exists. (2) Simply accept the offer of his company and no more. Use a little common sense. (3) It is not quite the best form for a man to walk between two ladies, though if they both want to take his arms, he will have to. (4) It is quite proper to accept a present from a man to whom you are not engaged.

P. D. E., Zanesville, Ohio.—As I have said a thousand times I repeat, there is no way to win a man's love. What do you want with it if it is not yours from the heart, freely? (2) No, it is not correct to skate with any man who may ask you? It is all right if you know him—if he is all right. (3) Dear, dear, so you think a girl's life is a life of trouble, do you? And you want to be a man? Well, do you think it is all of life to be a man? When you have lived to be fifty and have met a hundred or more men, you will begin to find out that they are not much happier than the women are. The only people who don't complain are the dead ones.

Maud and Mary, Charlotte, Ills.—It is proper to ask your "beau" to supper on Sunday evening; he must go home at ten o'clock; you should not kiss him good night; he should not call offener than once a week.

Gladys and Muriel, Tiskilwa, Ills.—"Tedium" sounds as if it were a Scandinavian name. (3) What cousin will tell these two what the National flower of Germany is?

That is all for this time. The new year starts out well among the inquiring minds, and let us hope that in this year much good may come to all concerned in this column. By-by, cousins dear.

COUSIN MARION.

HEAD RESTS

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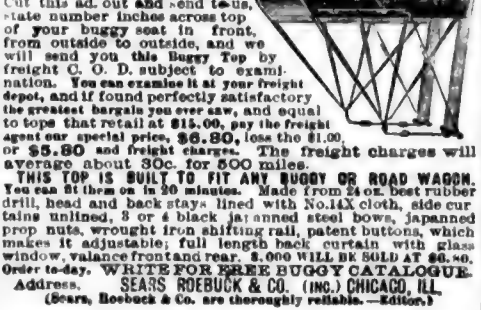
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Dogs That Work For a Living.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



NOTHING seems more foreign to the nature of the dog as we know him, than work. To those of us who live in cities indeed, he presents himself at once as a pet, and an important factor in our daily lives. Before the mind's eye rises an army of ribboned and jeweled and blanketed creatures, the occupants of our softest cushions, the playmates of our

children, the street escort of our ladies, the beloved and cherished household darling, too often the household tyrant. Not only does he pervade our homes and partake of our joys and sorrows, but he has set up his kingdom in our literature in all varieties of character and of all degrees of social standing, from the cringing monstrosity of the slums, faithfully following Bill Sikes in his criminal career, to the dainty, aristocrat Jip, ruling the Copperfield menage as only a winsome, exacting little beastie can; more over in our art he is so popular that at least one great painter owed much of his fame to him, and in the drama, Jefferson's "Schneider" has made his name a household word.

Not only is the dog an inseparable companion to civilized man, but the two races sustain close relationship to each other all over the world, so that we can hardly imagine man living without the dog, and we cannot conceive of the dog without man. Not all of this great company however can be called pets. Many and diverse are the uses to which man puts his tractable and faithful fourfooted friend, but most of them are so entirely in the line of the animal's own tastes that they can be characterized only as play. Indeed in most cases he has himself indicated the duties he prefers, selected—as it were—which of the several professions open to canine intelligence he will adopt. A dog, it is true, may be trained in ungenial ways, but he will never achieve in them the success that awaits him in a self-chosen career.

To guard his master's life, and protect his property against all despoilers; to accompany him on the hunt; to point out the game, and collect the spoils of the gun; or to aid with his own savage weapons; who can doubt that these are great pleasures to him, entirely underserving the name of work. The dog of St. Bernard also, who wanders about in the snow and storm, bearing his little barrel of brandy, and seeking the lost and helpless traveler, though he performs most valuable service, still is only doing what he delights in.

Yet dogs who actually labor, who are trained and supported solely to perform certain work, are not rare, though we may not have thought of them as workers. Almost with the beginning of man's own labor, began the labor of the dog in his service. Before the days of historical records, far back of the earliest books, the dog was in common use as shepherd, not only taking care of those singularly weak

and irresponsible creatures, protecting them from their animal foes and their own foolish indiscretion, but driving or leading them back and forth between their feeding ground and their fold. He is referred to in this way in one of the oldest parts of the Bible, the book of Job. So long and so faithfully has the dog done this work that there is perhaps no country on the globe where sheep are kept in any numbers, that he is not found as their guardian. Yet it is well known that it is his nature to worry and destroy sheep.

Darwin found dogs at nearly the extreme southern point of South America performing this task well, and saving to their masters the cost of several men. These animals were trained by being separated from their kind and placed with the sheep in puppyhood, and thus becoming so attached to them as to have no desire to leave them, feeling indeed much more at home with them than with other dogs. In one respect they were to be pitied, they had no youth. The playfulness of their early months was quickly crushed out, because frolic that is play to a puppy is death to sheep. The four-footed shepherd of Scotland is familiar through a thousand stories of his fidelity, and his more than human sagacity, and the dog of Lapland, though not so well known to us, is none the less faithful and intelligent in his care of the immense herds of reindeer which form his master's possessions.

Not only was the dog made useful in the arts of peace, but he was early impressed into the practices of war congenial to many of his race. In the Conquest of America, the Spaniards introduced as powerful aids to the subjugation of the South Americans, fierce bloodhounds and savage mastiffs trained to fight in ranks, and wherever they appeared the native races were almost exterminated. The bloodhounds accompanying one Spanish Commander are estimated to have killed in one year in Cuba four thousand natives. One of these animals would fly at an Indian, as a terrier flies at a rat, and kill him almost as quickly. One savage beast in particular was so valued for his exploits in this line, that he wore a coat of mail, drew the pay of one of the lower officers, and rode horseback to the battlefield, to be fresh for his terrible work. The death of this animal was a fitting close to such a life, although in justice to the dog we must admit that not he, but his masters were the guilty ones. The natives of course hated him heartily, and a large reward was offered to whoever would kill him. For a long time no one succeeded because of his mail, but at last a good marksman shot an arrow in his eye and ended his career. It is said that the famous and fierce Aragon hounds of Northern Mexico are descendants of this breed.

The fighting of dogs with each other for amusement or for money, has always been a favorite entertainment among the more brutal of men, and is even to this day, though it has now to be enjoyed in secret, for the intelligence and the humanity of the civilized world is severely against it.

An early work to which dogs were trained in England was dancing and performing in shows. Mention is made of dancing dogs in the seventeenth century, and they were nothing new then, and at the beginning of the last century we read of the "Ball of Little Dogs" who danced before Queen Anne. Since that time they have been taught to play a complete drama, one to

their taste of course, and even down to our day a troop of canine performers is a common adjunct to a circus or menagerie.

More serious and less agreeable because there was no honor or applause attached to it, was the work of turning the spit by which our ancestors in "Merrie England" roasted their beef, and many an unwilling dog was forced to perform that service. To carry dispatches in times of war, and to follow the track of a robber or criminal, are tasks too congenial to be classed as labor. The same may be said also of the brutal sport of bull baiting, of which our modern bulldog is the product and constant reminder, and of the sickening feats of the terriers of our day in the "rat pit." We occasionally see in our own streets a canine laborer drawing a cart or leading a blind man, and we hear of dogs in the country forced to work a churn, and read of others trained to smuggle lach which are wound closely around their slim bodies, and covered with other dog skins sewed over them. We know also of cases where dogs assist in police duty, and connect themselves with the city fire department; and there is said to be at this moment a dog in New York who regularly works a blacksmith's bellows; but these cases are rare, and the work demanded is not usually regular or severe.

Although this animal has played so important and so varied a part in the history of mankind, though he has been worshipped by some races, and used as a worthy sacrifice by others, though by the ancient Scandinavians he was the appointed executioner of criminals, and by the ancient Hyrcanians kept sacred for the purpose of devouring his master's own remains; though he has ever been man's companion in his sports as well as in his labors,—by the Oriental he has been from the first until now, hated, despised and allowed to serve only the lowest and vilest uses. It is a significant fact that the most dearly loved and cherished pet and companion of the Western World, is the outcast of the Eastern. In the records of the Hebrews, as among the modern Jews, the dog is always associated with repulsive ideas. To the modern Turk he is unclean, and treated as such. Touching stories are told by travelers of the attempts of the unfortunate pariahs of the East to ingratiate themselves into the favor of strangers, whom they seem to recognize as more friendly to them than the natives. It is Mrs. Brassey I believe, who gives a pathetic instance of a dog mother who placed her pups

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.

You want to know where Cuba, Porto Rico, Philippines, England, France and all countries are located. All the boys and girls must know, we have a few, only, of those wonderful, indestructible cloth Globes left. They are printed in colors like a map and are to be sewed and stuffed, entertainment and instruction combined. One will be sent with our big bargain book for 6c. mailing expenses. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

BEAUTIFUL PIECES FOR PATCH WORK.

Huge large squares such as our grandmothers used in a thousand ways for patchwork. We give away to any one who will send six cents for one package of these great squares. This is to introduce our mammoth illustrated catalogue into new homes where bargains are wanted and to obtain your address to send future favors to. Be sure to get one or more of these packages, we will send to your friend for an additional six cents. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Me.

Dollars for Pennies.

"THE LIGHT THAT WON'T GO OUT."

Every family in America is ready to buy "The light that sells on sight"—the wonderful new invention called ARC-LIGHT WICK.

It burns a whole year without trimming. It kills a candle, discards kerosene, heats gas, and almost equals electricity or sunlight. It gives 20 per cent. of oil. It's clear, white and brilliant. It's the light that won't go out. It's the light in the window for the night.

The Light That Sells On Sight.

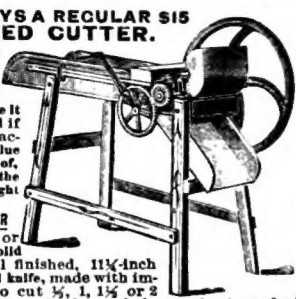
The ARC-LIGHT is something new. All need it, all buy it, all praise it. To show it means to sell it, and it yields from 100 per cent. to 300 per cent. profit to agents. The same kind of carbon that gives the electric light its brilliancy is woven into the Arc-Light by a patent process. We hold affidavits showing that an Arc-Light burned 1040 hours, giving the last hour the same perfect, brilliant, light it gave the first.

A single lamp manufacturer in New England, who bought over 35,000 wicks, says: "The Arc-Light beats all others. It sells our lamps, and turns night into day. Every home, store, hotel, car company will buy the Arc-Light Wick on sight. We have introduced this wonderful offer for 60 days the following to agents: wick, 5-8 inch wide—the size by rail, sample 5 cents; per gross, \$2.50. Small or 7 lamps, lanterns, etc., 3-8 inch wide, sample, 5 cents; per dozen, 25 cents; per gross, \$2.50. Large or 8 wicks, for table, bracket lamps, 1 inch wide, sample, 5 cents; per dozen, 25 cents; per gross, \$2.50. Parlor lamps, sample, 5 cents; per gross, \$2.50. On all orders for \$10.00 the cash, 15 per cent. off. Send for sample dozen, giving width desired, and see how they go. We can supply you with any style ARC-LIGHT WICK in any quantity from a single wick to a thousand dozen. To all who send this offer for three months' trial subscription to this paper we will send 2 samples of A or B or C wick. Address COMFORT, Box 959, Augusta, Maine.

\$7.45 BUYS A REGULAR \$15 FEED CUTTER.

Send Us \$1.00

and we will send you this Feed Cutter by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory and the greatest value you ever saw or heard of, pay the freight agent the balance, \$6.45 and freight charges. THIS IS THE CELEBRATED SALEM CUTTER for cutting hay, straw or fodder; frame heavy solid seasoned hardwood, well finished, 11 1/2 inch genuine Eager silver steel knife, made with improved adjustments to cut 1/2, 1, 1 1/2 or 2 inches, malleable hopper, extra heavy balance wheel, perfect adjustment, lightest running, largest capacity and most durable 165-pound cutter ever made. Write for Free Agricultural Implement Catalogue. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)



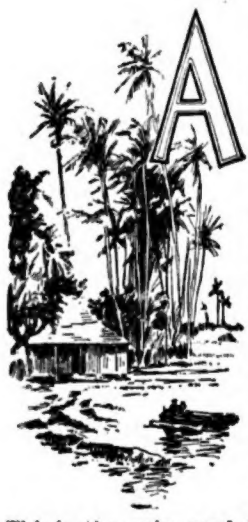
under her protection while she was living in Constantinople.

The dog, to be the friend and companion that we know, to have his character developed, his intelligence awakened, and become what he is capable of being, must have human sympathy and friendship. Those of his kind who are denied that factor of growth appear like an entirely different race, lacking in individuality of character and far more resembling their relation, the wolf.

The important modern services of the dog to man are three: The protection of life and property, which duty he takes upon himself in all civilized countries; the work of scavenger, which saves the cities of the East from being swept off the face of the earth by pestilence, and that of the draught animal, which is equally indispensable to the life of man in the Polar regions. Of these, the first two offices, though of inestimable value to human life, cannot be classed under the head of working for a living, but in the third named, we see the familiar beast serving strictly as a laborer, with scarcely a pleasure in his hard life, often not even the small satisfaction of feeling that he has pleased his master. For it is a remarkable circumstance, that in the countries where he works the hardest, as well as in those where he is the most useful to man, he is the worst treated; his unvarying wages are kicks, curses and starvation. It is so with the sledge-drawers of the North; it is so with the sheep-herder and the scavenger of the East. The tales brought by travelers of the brutality with which this faithful humble servant is rewarded, are almost beyond belief, and terribly shake one's faith in any superiority of the human race, other than that of strength and cunning to compass its ends.

A Pearl of the Pacific.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



This is the only good harbor in the islands, being well protected from the high surf by a coral reef. The city lies on a level strip of land along the sea, while behind it rise the green slopes of the mountains. Within the city the houses are nearly all modern structures built for comfort and beauty and surrounded by gardens. Here dwell the American and other foreigners, and those natives who have accepted the modern mode of life. Beautiful drives shaded by palms lead from the city in all directions, and street railways and steam trains cross the valleys and touch at the plantations beyond. No modern invention is wanting and the sugar, rice and coffee plantations are carried on under English or American supervision and in the most scientific way. There are good schools, libraries, newspapers and magazines.

The native Hawaiians are a dark-skinned race, with bushy hair, like most of the islanders of the Pacific, and, like them, their habits are simple, and their needs are few. A little raw fish and a dish of "poi" supplies the daily need, and as to clothes, they are happiest when adorned as nature alone adorned them. When first visited by white men they were very numerous, but pure Hawaiians are rapidly decreasing in number owing to the admixture with other races and to their carelessness of health.

The curse of Hawaii is leprosy. This dread disease is absolutely incurable as far as medical science can discover, and the government has set apart a portion of the island of Molokai for a leper settlement. To this place are transported all those afflicted with the disease, and here they spend the rest of their lives, fed and cared for by the brave souls who have gone there, giving their lives to the sufferers. The natives are very superstitious about the leprosy and when anyone whom they love is afflicted they will hide them in the cane rather than allow the authorities to find them.

The Archipelago of Hawaii consists of eight inhabited islands and many smaller ones, all of volcanic origin, with here and there a coral reef built upon the volcanic base. Volcanic cones rise on all sides, some having extinct craters at their summit, some still in constant activity.

The mountains are the wonder and glory of



WINE PALMS.

the islands; on the Island of Hawaii, the largest of the group, are two peaks, Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, being respectively 13,805 feet and 13,675 feet. On the summit of Mauna Loa, far up above the clouds which rest always above it, is the old crater, Monaweweo, a vast

hollow 1200 feet deep and having a circuit of twenty miles. Few tourists ever visit this weird spot where the god of fire reigns supreme. There is no path to the summit and the place is sown with the shiny cinders and black and red lavas, which have boiled over from this huge caldron. Half way up on the side of Mauna Loa is its better known crater of Kilauea. This is easily accessible, being only 4000 feet above the sea, and approached by a well-worn path. Kilauea is a great basin nine miles in circumference, surrounded by almost perpendicular walls several hundred feet high. The floor of this crater is composed of blocks of lava, some still soft like liquid mud. In the cracks between the blocks may be seen the red-hot mass of lava under the very feet of the traveler, now and again boiling over and spreading out on the surface. Here and there streams of lava flow down the slopes with a hiss of hot steam, emitting a sulphurous odor. Half way across this lava plain with its serpent like streams, and its openings of fire, one comes upon the new and ever active crater. This is a lake of fire about a mile across, and five or six hundred feet deep. Day after day and hour after hour its lavas boil and bubble, never quiet



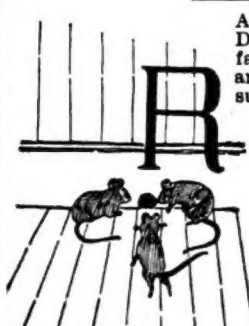
AVENUE OF ROYAL PALMS.

for a moment. Dashing against the cliffs with a noise like a turbulent ocean its waves of blood red, fiery liquid break into gory spray high in the air, and cooling drop in pebbles upon the surface of the lake. At night this is one of the wonders of the world, terribly grand, sublime beyond description. Columns of smoke rise from below and are illuminated as they hang over the lake; flames and sparks are thrown about, or rise in fountains and fall in cascades.

Violent explosions and loud rumblings and groanings add mystery to the weird scene. Standing upon the brink of the precipice that overhangs this strange lake one does not wonder that the superstitious natives sacrifice constantly to Pele, the god of fire, who is imprisoned here. Kilauea is exceedingly interesting to scientists because of its constant activity, as well as its convenience for observation. Unlike Vesuvius and other volcanoes its crater is always accessible. On account of the high walls of the outer crater one may observe an eruption with the utmost safety and gaze upon the marvels of a modern "Inferno" without risk of life.

Almost the whole island is covered with lava which has in recent times overflowed from the crater and covered the slope. Much of this is but little weathered so that the soil is not deep, yet it is so rich that everywhere ferns and flowers spring up and the constant showers, brought by the northeast trade wind, keep the mountain sides in a constant state of verdure. In some places the lava streams have reached the sea and leaped into the waters of the ocean leaving steep cliffs on the shore, contrasting with the white sandy beach and coral reefs. Indeed Hawaii is a land of contrasts; at the sea level tropical heat and vegetation; on the mountains cold winds and bare rocks; in the towns modern buildings and the latest fashions; in the native villages grass huts and primitive clothing. Here is a meeting of the civilization of the West with the simplicity and superstition of the far East. Let us hope that the remnant of the native population may be improved and not degraded by the change, and that our people, who go to Hawaii to make their home, may take as their watchword the salutation of the Hawaiian. "Aloha"—Love to you!

RATS.



cotton-stuffed velvet, dubbed "rats" from their fancied resemblance to that charming rodent. They were about the size of the animal mentioned, were furnished with strings for tying round the head, and sometimes had a fine wire run through the middle as an aid in fitting them to the head. Sometimes the hair was rolled over them a la Pompadour, and sometimes it was parted on the top and two rolls were made, one on each side of the head, reaching around to the back where the remainder of the hair was gathered in a knot low down on the head. Now all this is in vogue again, and the pretty young girls with their "ratted" coils of hair are more than ever "the images" of the fond mamma.



O traveler by steam cars of the luxurious pattern need be made wretched by the presence of a noisy infant, if he selects a train with one of the nursery cars. The parent may check an infant and deposit it in the nursery car, where it will be made comfortable and amused, and then betake herself to the drawing-room car and feel that she has made all the other occupants happy, as well as assured for herself a comfortable journey. The nursery cars are furnished with all the necessities of a home nursery, and supplied with competent attendants, and the mother has access to them during the journey, if she wishes.

CANCER CURED WITH SOOTHING, BALMY OILS.

Cancer, Tumor, Catarrh, Piles, Fistula, Ulcer and all Skin and Wound Diseases. Write for Illustrated Book Sent free. Address D.K. B.Y.E., Kansas City, Mo.

FREE WATCH

Don't send a cent in a rare chance. For lady or gent, a heavy plated dust-proof case, American movement watch with a guarantee to equal for time any solid gold watch made if you sell only boxes of Vegetable Pills at 25 cts. a box. Write to day & we send Pills by mail at once, when sold send us the money & we send you the watch same day money is received. American Medicine Co. Dept. Q, Sta. O, N.Y.



HOW TO CURE RUPTURE.

Copyrighted.

It gives us much pleasure and satisfaction to send these words of hope, which are tidings of joy to those who are ruptured. It is not our purpose to go into the cause of rupture. It would not be any satisfaction to you to know exactly what caused your rupture, but how to cure it is what you want to know, and that is what we are going to tell you.

There are several kinds of rupture, or hernia, the following being the most common: Scrotal, Femoral, Umbilical and Ventral. Ruptures are reducible or irreducible. If the hernia can be returned to its proper place, it is reducible; if it cannot be returned, it is irreducible. Irreducible ruptures are caused by tearing, poor truss, or going without one. The small rupture is the most dangerous; first from perfect; second from strangulation. Many think "my rupture is small; no need to bother about that little one." This is a dreadful mistake, for every minute of their lives they are in danger of immediate and painful death by strangulation. In small ruptures the opening is so small that it only allows one intestine to come down. If then requires much greater pressure to move its contents, and in many cases it becomes constricted, and is very likely to prove fatal, or require a painful surgical operation, much suffering and loss of time. The small rupture should have prompt attention; there are no others so dangerous; no danger of many deaths. Attend to it at once, to-morrow may be too late. That you are ruptured, and that we can cure you, is the purpose for which this is written, and this announcement will surely be a blessing, coming unsolicited, to follow its teachings.

You have suffered perhaps for years with hernia or rupture. We have no doubt but what you have tried many devices, and expended many dollars, with always the same result—failure. The trusses that have been on the market, in the past years are now things of the past. They are based on the right principle. Some of them were considered good in their day, and in some cases were a great relief. Many thought when the elastic truss was invented that it was a perfect thing at last, but they soon found out they were mistaken.

It can now be clearly seen why they failed. They placed all dependence on elastic webbing or belts which go entirely around the body, and they do not bring the pads in position to bear on the rupture. Everyone knows that the sweat of the body will soon rot the elastic in the webbing, and so they must be continually stretching and giving out, never two days together the intestines are let out of their natural position, and never give the rupture a chance to heal. How can that kind of truss cure a rupture? A rupture to be cured must be held securely in its natural position. It is a waste of money to buy an old style truss. You know it all. You know how you have suffered in warm weather from sweating and chafing. The belts and straps pulled up so tight over the galled parts that you would think, "I would rather die than suffer this longer." And many, after repeated attempts to bear up, are unable to bear, and are longer are risking their lives and living in misery, without truss.

To effect a cure of hernia, all know that the hernial tumor or intestines must be kept in the easy, comfortable and natural position that they would be in if there was no rupture. It has been our great good fortune to have placed in our possession a new idea in the shape of what we may call a truss. Do not think it is one of those instruments of torture you have seen that has ropes, pulleys, clasps, etc. To compare ours with others would be like comparing the electric light with an old-fashioned lamp. Our truss stands alone as a new idea, something that

to be far ahead of anything now used for the cure of rupture, only to be seen to be placed far in advance of all appliances now in use. A truss that will cure you, because it will hold everything just right in its natural position, which gives the rupture a chance to reunite and heal; does not have elastic webbing to hold it in place, has no straps to pass between the legs; can be worn day and night with ease; is as easy as a stocking to wear; no matter what position you are in, it needs no changing; for simplicity, durability, comfort and effectiveness, cannot be equaled.

Cool and Comfortable in Warm Weather. has no parts to chafe you; does not absorb the foul odors from the body, always in place, always comfortable, always curing with ease; it is in place, is durable and can NEVER WEAR OUT; needs no repairing; and

Will Last a Hundred Years without a single cent being laid out for repairs. That rupture can be cured is admitted by all. The greatest obstacle has been the perfect appliances that have slipped or are continually moving out of place. It has remained for us to at last place before sufferers our perfect-fitting appliances that will surely cure where it is possible. Of course there are some cases that have gone too far to be cured by any known process; to those we offer

Comfort and Safety. The inventor of this truss is the Rev. J. Hayden, an old minister of the gospel, and a member of the 17th Maine Regiment, and who is well remembered by our boys of the blue and gray for his many acts of kindness.

This is what this well-known gentleman says (he is a writer for several magazines and papers):

"Finding myself ruptured, I sought advice of an older brother who had the same trouble. He said: 'I have been ruptured for forty years, and have spent over \$2000 for trusses, and the one I have on now is the best I ever had; it cost me \$15 (it was an elastic truss), but it is breaking and I must get another. On examination I found an elastic strap around him, with every which of the webbing printed on his body, while the understrap that passed between his legs had chafed him so that he was red and sore. This led me to discover my truss, which is as

Easy to Wear as a Stocking, and which ended all pain, danger and cost, and never needs repairing. I want to get it into the hands of my fellow-men who are suffering from this dangerous and painful infirmity, for I know it will be worth a hundred times its cost. I am broken down with kidney and heart disease, and I am in constant expectation of death. The thought has been constantly before me. An invention which has the power to relieve so much suffering should not be buried with me. As I am not able, I want you to take measures to introduce it to the world, and if this is accomplished, I shall feel my life has been of value to sufferers. As I have reflected on the miseries of millions without means of relief, and the dismal certainty of their growing worse, and consider that I have in my keeping a comfortable, sure-fitting, never-failing remedy, I am, I feel, bound and tested in my own and other cases, and which, at a glance, common sense will appreciate, I feel that it would be a great wrong to mankind to have this invention buried with me; for

I value my Honor in This World, and I unhesitatingly declare that I regard a failure in any instance as impossible.

OUR TERMS: NO CURE, NO PAY. It is the perfect comfort of the above truss. Surely we have great faith in our way of treating rupture or we would never make the following proposition to you. It is a fair honest offer that no other firm dare make, because they have not the goods to back it up.

For DOUBT Rupture send \$3 with this Blank.

Write your name and address very plain.

Street, or P. O. Box if you have one.

Post Office.

State.

Send no money.

Send no money.

Send no money.

Send no money.

Send no money.

Send no money.

Send no money.

Send One Dollar

Cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this CORN SHELLER by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory and equal to Shellers that retail at \$10.00 to \$15.00, pay the railroad agent our special offer price, \$5.00, less the freight, \$1.00, and freight charges. The Sheller weighs 135 pounds and the freight charges for 500 miles will be about 75 cents, greater or shorter distances in proportion. THIS IS THE BEST ONE-HOLE CORN SHELLER in the world. Very strong, durable and easy to operate. Frame is made of hard wood and shafting of rolled steel, balance wheel is large and heavy, which makes it the easiest running sheller made, has adjustable iron; will shell any kind of corn. Comes with fan and feed table complete. Shelling capacity, 25 bushels per hour. ORDER AT ONCE; don't delay. Write for free Agricultural Implement Catalogue. Address: Sears, Roebuck & Co. (INC.), CHICAGO. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)



In another column you will find two blanks, which you will carefully fill up with answers to questions asked thereon. Send us these two blanks and ONE dollar with your order for single rupture, and TWO dollars for double rupture.

The reason why we ask you to send \$1.00 with your order is, there are so many people who are always writing for anything they can get for nothing. Many would write who are not ruptured. They know some of our friends who are ruptured, and they want something they can sell the afflicted party for \$5.00 or \$10.00. There are others who have no gratitude in them, their object seems to be to get all they can for nothing, and in no way think of repaying a favor that rightly belongs for them to pay. THIS WE KNOW FROM ACTUAL EXPERIENCE.

To keep such parties from troubling us, we have decided on the following plan: You are to send us \$1.00, to be held by us as a small guarantee of good faith. Upon receipt of same, we at once send you a truss the same to be worn by you. When cured you are to promptly send us \$2.00 more, and return our truss, which we only lend you. Should yours be one of those cases (which are very rare) that cannot be cured, and you wish to keep the truss, because it is so easy and comfortable, we will sell it to you at a fair price, which in no case shall exceed \$10.00. Some parties who get cured say they do not want to return the truss, but would rather buy it, so as to keep it handy; so we say we will sell it to all who wish to buy. It takes from two to six months to effect a cure. If you have a double rupture, or you have some member of your family, or friend who is ruptured, and you want two or more trusses, send us \$1.00 with the order for each truss, and we will return the appliance of truss not cure, or you are not fitted, we will return the money you sent us, and upon receipt of same you will at once return our truss. The terms we have offered are fair and liberal, no fair-minded person can say that we are not, and we will not, under any circumstances, deviate from them.

You Can Be Cured Free. When you send in your order, if you will send us the names of all the ruptured people you know, we will send them our circulars. When we send our truss to six of them, we will refund you all the money you have paid us and cure you free, or give you a truss if yours should be one of those rare cases that cannot be cured. If you will give us permission, we will refer the parties to you, and as you will like them, it is a great inducement you can truthfully recommend it. There is no doubt but that they will give you an order, or send it direct to us, and we will give you proper credit.

Will you, after these plain, truthful statements, continue to suffer and risk your life by wearing an old-style, imperfect truss? Dare you go without a truss knowing that you are daily growing worse, and that within a short time you will be a physical wreck? Dare you let your life be in jeopardy for a trial which costs you nothing if you are not satisfied? Do you think it is a humbug? If we were frauds we would not ask the small sum of \$1.00 with the order, we would ask \$5.00 or \$10.00. A fraud never expects a second order, so they get all they can on the first.

Our Truss is for Men, Women and Children. We can fit an infant, or a man or woman, weighing 300 lbs. Fleishy ladies who have navel ruptures, will find it a great blessing.

No More Bands & Ropes & Knots. It is the only truss that can be worn by women and be clean and comfortable. Ruptured women who are pregnant can wear it and avoid many hours and days of misery. Don't put off sending for it. Be it today, to-morrow, or next week, it will be the same. What more need be said to convince you? We warrant A FIFTY-FIFTY FIT IN EVERY CASE.

See the Testimonials. Be sure and fill out the two blanks. The truss fits all kinds of cases. I could get help only by it. It is for the Infant, the Adult, the Fleishy, the Lean, the Short, and the Tall.

Men and women use same blank for measure. The government has also taken out a patent. It is that not alone sufficient evidence that it is a WONDERFUL NEW INVENTION?

Testimonials, circulars, etc., will be sent free. In closing we will say we have cured many who have had bad ruptures, and we can cure you if you will only let us. We may be the means of doing you much good, and hope to hear from you in the near future.

The Postmaster Says: I have examined the letters from which these testimonials were taken, and guarantee the same to be genuine. I was also shown a great many other testimonials which speak in the highest terms of the Sure Cure.

Dear Sir:—Accept my many thanks. I think your truss is the only one that is Sure Cure. I consider myself cured by your truss after suffering sixteen years. J. G. Porter, Atlanta, Ga.

Saved from the Knife. I had tried every kind of a truss I could get hold of, and found that none would hold rupture in place, it being very low down, and the doctors told me I would have to have a surgical operation, and which I had decided to have performed. I suffered so much from it and had gone so far as to make arrangements with parties to perform the operation when I happened by chance to be held of one of your trusses. I looked it over and decided to try once more and sent you my measure for a truss, which was received in due time. I put it on and it fitted like a charm, and has held me all right, and rupture has not been down since I put it on. I wear it all the time without any inconvenience. I should hardly know I had a truss on without it. I think of it. I can stoop or bend in any manner without the least inconvenience. I think my rupture is healed all right, and that I could leave it off all right, but prefer to wear it still longer.

Cured in Five Months. Dear Sir:—I have worn your truss five months and have taken it off now, and I am cured. It is the best I ever used; it is better than you recommend it. Other firms praise their ill-constructed, padded trusses very highly, but they are really not good for anything; I have worn them for years and got no better. I would not care to wear one of your hundred of theirs. Andrew Proper, Gleno Mills, N.Y.

A Physician Says: Dear Sir:—I send you herewith an order for one of your trusses. Please send me some of your order blanks so that I may order from your company from time to time for my patients. I have tried your goods and find them O.K. Yours truly, S. O. Huston, M.D., Beaufort, S.C.

Cures Double Rupture. Dear Sir:—I have a double rupture, on the right side has healed up and the left side is almost well. Yours truly, William Wilson, Doubs, Md.

Cured in Five Months. Gentlemen: I have worn your truss five months. I went to a physician and he said it was healed up. Send me some of your pamphlets so I can distribute them. I cannot say enough in favor of your truss. F. E. Briggs, Bristol, Vt.

Was in Great Misery Cured. Gentlemen: I feel that I have been in great misery for many years. I could not say enough in your praise. I can work as hard as I ever could. I do not know that I am cured. I have been afraid to take truss off yet for fear that I am not. I was so poorly before I began to wear your truss, that a whole week would pass and I would not be able to do scarcely anything. I could not ride a mile in a carriage, without great misery, and being in great misery. Now I can ride ten miles with ease. Yours truly, Mrs. Nora Clem, Kent, Iowa.

Cured My Boy. Gentlemen:—Your truss has cured my boy when no other would, and in the same time you said it would. I am more than thankful to you for what you have done for me and my son. No need of any child suffering when they can be cured so easily. Yours truly, Mrs. Mary Yarnell, Middleton, Ohio.

Cured Boy in Three Months. Dear Sir:—My little boy is cured after wearing your truss three months. It is a great truss, and I will do all I can for your favor. Yours truly, Samuel T. Everett, Crumpton, Md.

When you write to us of the above parties, be sure to enclose 5 cents in stamps to pay for stationery, if you expect an answer. Remember they get many enquiries and cannot spend time and postage unless you send stamps as we request.

1. How many inches do you measure around your body, on a line with the rupture?

2. Are you ruptured on right side, left side, both sides or navel?

3. About how large is the rupture?

4. How near the scrotum or bag is it?

5. Does it descend into the scrotum?

6. Can you reduce or return it easily?

7. What is your height?

8. What is your weight?

9. What is your age?

10. What is your occupation?

11. How long have you been ruptured?

12. Mark as near as possible on picture where your rupture is.

SUREHOLD CO., Box C, Westbrook, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



Venus just on the horizon, while the last degrees of **Libra** will be on the meridian. The conjunction of the luminaries occurs in the 2nd house, having the benevolent rays of **Saturn** in the 12th and **Neptune** in the 6th house. **Herschel** is in the 11th; **Mercury** is near the 2nd cusp under the favorable rays of **Herschel**, his disposer, but poorly aspected by **Jupiter**; the warlike **Mars** is in the 7th retrograde and in his fall, while **Jupiter**, the great benefactor, is elevated near the south meridian.

The promises of the figure, on the whole, are much better than usual for this lunation, though there are some adverse features to be noted. **Mars** indicates some dissensions and enmities with threats of warlike actions in our southwestern possessions in which the naval forces may be called into activity, and there is probability of some bad eruptive disease like small pox in those regions likely to affect our soldiers and sailors. Unusual precaution should be had in this respect by the governing authorities both at home and abroad. There will be some unusual excitement in Congress in discussions involving the finances and the expenditures of the nation. The benefits holding the important angles of the scheme indicate the popularity of the Chief Executive and his administration and the threat of the government under his rule; also the prosperity of the masses of our people. We will have some extremely cold weather in the lunation, probably in the last days of February and from the 4th to 8th of March. There will be some disorder in some prison from which treacherous conduct aiming at a jail delivery is to be apprehended. Our government should be on the alert against the machinations of secret enemies operating in the interest of Spain. This latter country is still sadly under the ban and is in further danger of disruption and revolution. There will be some very disastrous fires in New York City and some unusual harm from explosions, and fire and steam. Persons born about the 8th of January, 9th of April, 12th of July and 13th of October, of past years, will need to be watchful against attacks from small pox or other eruptive diseases; should carefully avoid indulging in stimulants and pay more than ordinary heed to the digestion.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY, 1899.

FEBRUARY 1—Wednesday. This month begins with an excellent day for the vigorous prosecution of all general business; it is especially recommended for important transactions as to houses and land and for dealings with farmers and those trading in farm products. The night hours are contentious and prompt caution for the avoidance of quarrels and accidents from fire and explosion; thieves are likely to be unusually active during the hours between sunset of the 1st and the dawn of the 2nd, and many of them come to grief in their misdoings.

2—Thursday. Quite fortunate in the forenoon for transactions with artists and musicians, workers in silk, jewelry, tailors, dressmakers and milliners; and the day generally should be fully employed in pushing all honorable transactions; have money dealings in the afternoon, when also buy merchandise for trade, open new stores and deal with persons of station and wealth.

3—Friday. Attend to financial matters in the morning hours but do not apply to any public office or any person in authority over thee for any kind of favor during the middle hours of the day; as the noon hours are passed, however, give all thine energies to business; especially such as pertains to manufacture or construction; perform chemical experiments; deal in electrical goods, drugs, machinery and sharp instruments.

4—Saturday. A very fortunate day for the literary pursuits and for dealings with persons engaged in clerical capacities, also teachers, students, surveyors, civil engineers, and mathematicians generally; give preference to the forenoon for business concerned with the mechanical pursuits and trades; travel, trade in cattle and metals and deal with chemists, physicians, military men and cutlers; the noon and the afternoon are the best parts of the day for dealings with printers, publishers, stationers and real estate dealers; the mind will be unusually active and ideas clothe themselves readily and tastefully; urge correspondence, make contracts, especially such as affect legal and educational matters, hire help and push all matters of trade and business.

5—Sunday. Especially conducive to mental eccentricities and indulgences in the imaginative and marvelous in literature.

6—Monday. The unpropitious moments of this day occur before the noon hour when business of all kinds should be transacted conservatively, and when real estate dealings are best deferred; as the day advances, however, conditions are much improved and special activity is urged in conducting matters connected with art, music, fancy goods, articles of adornment, apparel and the beautiful and elegant in life; seek audience with ladies, and expect to derive more than usual pleasure or entertainment from the drama.

7—Tuesday. Be at work early on this day; solicit money advantages, buy goods for trade and urge the commercial pursuits to their utmost; dealings in stock and money transactions result favorably to thee; those whose activities also promise fairly at this time do not waste a moment, but inaugurate as many of the new ventures in life as possible; the evening hours are less to be depended upon.

8—Wednesday. Be master of the tongue during the morning hours lest quarrels and unpleasantness come; do not have any surgical operations performed nor should any favorable result be expected from dealings with persons in the manufacturing walks of life; fires and accidents are to be guarded against; the latter part of the day is best.

9—Thursday. Hold fast the purse strings during the forenoon of this day when no purchases should be made of merchandise for trade; beware of speculation, giving thine energies to the disposal of what thou hast for trade rather than making new ventures. The strictly literary pursuits are more favored than others and mental efforts, though inclined towards the eccentric and novel will be likely to be more than usually effective.

10—Friday. Apply to public officials or thine employer for favor or advantage; demand in such commodities as coal, iron, wood, lead, lumber and grain, and, with discretion, in mining and railroad stocks; make contracts for building and repairing; deal with printers, publishers, and persons generally in fiduciary capacities; have dealings with the laboring classes, and make beginnings in business pertaining to real estate and the agricultural pursuits.

11—Saturday. One of the excellent days in which all important undertakings should be pushed vigorously; seek money favors at the hands of banks and persons of wealth; important enterprises pertaining to the elegant occupations or polite arts are favorably begun at this time and the day is also fortunate for purchase or sale of wearing apparel and all fancy and ornamental goods.

12—Sunday. Not promising for a Sabbath day, inviting physical rest and quiet rather than exertion or mental efforts.

13—Monday. Defer thy purchases of wearing apparel until a more favorable time and look out in the pursuit of pleasure or recreation that extravagant drains are not made upon the purse; the afternoon encourages thee to crowd all literary and commercial undertakings, ex-

cepting dealings in the artistic and decorative wares; urge correspondence and crowd all mental efforts.

14—Tuesday. A very fortunate day for agricultural matters and for having any manner of dealings with landlords or in houses or lands, mining properties, lumber, coal or iron. During the middle hours of this day applications to employers and persons in authority for preferment or advantage are likely to meet with very favorable consideration.

15—Wednesday. Let the musician, artist, and all in the nicer avocations of life begin this day with its earliest moments and labor diligently until the evening, dealing also in articles of dress, adornment or decoration; taking principal steps in all business of these classes as early in the morning as possible; the evening bids thee be watchful of the purse and guarded against thefts or an extravagant inclination in thy purchases; it will be better if thy means are not invested at this time in any new undertaking.

16—Thursday. Be cautious in the use of the pen in the early forenoon, when commercial contracts are best deferred; sign no deeds; engage no servants nor expect much progress or advantage from any of the literary undertakings; as the noon is passed the moments increase in energy and enterprise and activity is invited in all the walks of life, but especially for machinists, engineers, mechanics, travellers, surgeons, electricians, military men, cutlers, and iron and brass workers; consult thy dentist and experiment in chemistry.

17—Friday. This day is peculiarly adverse for any beginning involving matters of a public nature or dealings with government officers or prominent persons in large corporations; have care to avoid disputes and controversies and keep the tongue well under control, as haste in most any venture on this day would be likely to do more harm than at any other times.

18—Saturday. Urge business of all kinds during all of this day, preference being given to such as depends upon mental labor for its best success. It is especially favorable for literary matters and for the prosecution of mathematical and scientific studies. Let all classes of contracts affecting legal matters and all important movements for intellectual improvement and educational interests be now made. Merchants and tradesmen are particularly favored.

19—Sunday. An excellent day for improvement of the mind and for proper appreciation of the merits of literary and scientific productions; the mind inclines rather more towards the sombre and reflective and the contemplation of the grand or sublime in nature and art than towards the flowery and ornate.

20—Monday. Choose this day for urging all honorable business to the utmost; for buying goods for trade and for money transactions generally.

21—Tuesday. This day is emphatically to be avoided for wooing or wedding; the fair sex should remember that dissensions and controversies threaten the matrimonial engagements now effected and the time is especially conducive to quarrels between lovers; be very cautious in handling fire and chemicals; surgical operations are extremely dangerous to both operator and patient; let the strictest temperance be exercised in all kinds of pleasure seeking; beware of the suddenly awakened appetite for stimulants, for these passing days are dangerous in this respect; it is apprehended that there will occur notorious harm or violence to some member of the fair sex that will reflect the viciousness of the existing conditions; intonations; there will be marked increase of intemperance and unusual aggravation of digestive troubles and kidney weakness. The above suggestions are peculiarly applicable to persons born about the 8th of January and April, and the 12th of July and October, of past years.

22—Wednesday. Let this day be improved for literary pursuits and engagements of minor character and importance, but steps of much magnitude are best postponed for a short season.

23—Thursday. A passive day in which local conditions contribute little impulse; improve vigorously the benevolent indications of thy nativity.

24—Friday. Have dealings on this day, especially in the early hours, with builders, plumbers, farmers, divers, and all persons engaged in the laborious and dirty avocations, when also seek the society and ask favors of aged persons; purchase coal, lead, iron, grain, wool and lumber.

25—Saturday. On this day, do thou beware of litigation and contentions, for this is a day of strife and discord; engage no servants, travel not, and be sure to "make haste slowly" in thy respective avocations; be very careful if compelled to be about machinery or electrical apparatus and in the handling of chemicals, fire arms, hot liquids and fire; typhoid and respiratory troubles are more dangerous at this time and the best care should now be given to persons whose nativities render them peculiarly susceptible in this respect. The suggestions are appropriate also for the majority of persons born about the 24th of February, 26th of May, 28th of August and 26th of November, of past years.

26—Sunday. The day is a happy one until the afternoon hours, being particularly conducive to enjoyment from communion with the poet, musician and artist; extemporaneous preaching should abound in metaphor and elegant though eccentric sentiment and the musical portion of religious worship should be peculiarly happy and effective; the afternoon is disappointing and unsatisfactory.

27—Monday. This day encourages dealings with railway officials, public officers and persons in authority in large corporations, also for the study of uncommon subjects, patents, trade marks, etc.

28—Tuesday. Use the forenoon of this day for entering into important ventures in the literary world and dealing with booksellers, publishers, printers, lawyers and all ingenious persons; the night hours are evil and caution all against quarrels and disputes; see that no chances are taken of fires and explosions.

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I will send free, with full instructions, some of this simple preparation for the cure of Leucorrhoea, Ulceration, Displacement and all female troubles, to all ladies sending address. I have nothing to sell. Tell other sufferers of it—that is all I ask. Mrs. SUMMERS, Box C, Notre Dame, Ind.

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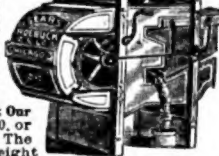
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DEAR READER:

If you are out of work, or are not satisfied with your present business and would like to make more money, it will be to your interest to read this notice. We do not offer you a chance to make a fortune without work, but we do offer you an opportunity to make money much faster than you can make it at any other kind of work. The country is flooded with circulars offering chances to make money at the rate of from twenty to fifty dollars a day; such offers are not business-like, and all agents who amount to anything are disgusted with such circulars, and most of them are thrown aside without being read. If you are looking for an opportunity to make twenty to fifty dollars a day, you might as well throw this notice aside also; but if you would like to engage in a good paying business, you will do well to read this notice through carefully. Then you can use your own judgment as to whether our offer is a reasonable one or not.

We guarantee that anyone who is willing to work can make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business. We admit that \$3 to \$5 a day is not much of an inducement when compared to the statements made by some firms, who offer all the way from \$20 to \$50 a day for selling various articles. We do not make you such glowing promises, but what we do offer you has the advantage of being true. We might offer agents a sure chance of making from \$20 to \$50 a day, but the chances are that anyone who would believe such unreasonable nonsense would not know enough to earn his board at any kind of business. That is not the kind of agents we are in quest of; we want reliable agents with common sense, who are willing to work for good pay, and not those who are looking for an opportunity to make a fortune without work. We believe the only way to get such agents and keep them, is to furnish them with a good thing to sell, a real genuine bargain, and then to tell them the exact truth about the business. We have a large number of agents at work, and we know for a certainty what working agents can make. We know that \$3 a day is the very lowest, most of our agents are averaging \$4 and \$5 a day, and often some of them make a good deal more than that. We have several agents who are clearing from \$7 to \$10 a day. But these are great workers operating in the best territory, and, of course, everyone cannot do as well, but it is easy for anyone to make, at the very least, \$3 a day above all expenses in any territory. We haven't a single working agent who is clearing, on an average, less than \$3 a day. Now be sure that you understand us: We don't say that lazy, shiftless agents will make \$3 a day, for they can't do it at this or any other business, but what we do say is that agents who are willing to work, not too hard, but the same as they would expect to work at any other business, can easily clear \$3 a day above all expenses, in any territory, and if they have good territory to work in they can make anywhere from \$5 to \$7, and even \$10 a day. If you want a good chance to work and get good pay for it, you will find it to your interest to read this notice through carefully.

The articles which we have for you to sell are a line of forks, spoons, etc., made of a new metal called "Brazil Silver." We will describe this new line of goods the best we can, then you can judge for yourself whether we are offering you a good chance to make money or not.

BRAZIL SILVER.

Warranted for Twenty-five Years.

Brazil Silver is believed to be the very best metal in existence for the manufacture of forks and spoons; it has all the lustre and brilliancy of burnished coin silver, and is much harder and more durable, in fact, it is impossible to wear it out. It is absolutely indestructible. The goods made of this metal are the same all the way through, there being no plating to wear off; they will remain as good as new for any length of time. For all practical purposes in the manufacture of table ware this Brazil Silver is superior to coin silver. It is as lustrous and as pure as coin silver, and being much harder it will wear even longer than silver; in fact it is absolutely impossible to wear it out. It will wear forever. As there is no plating to wear off, the metal being the same all the way through, it stands to reason that you can't wear it out. Our confidence in the metal is so great that we guarantee it to wear twenty-five years. We give a guarantee signed by the company warranting the goods to wear and to give perfect satisfaction for twenty-five years. We are an old, strong and thoroughly established firm with ample capital to carry on our business and make our guaranty as good as the Bank of England. In selling these goods an agent can recommend them with the greatest of confidence, for they are just as represented, absolutely indestructible. And, furthermore, our guarantee warranting the goods to give satisfaction for twenty-five years, clears the agent from all responsibility in the matter; for if any article fails to give perfect satisfaction, no matter how long it has been in use, we hold ourselves ready to refund the money paid for the article. These goods are the same metal all the way through; they will never wear out. They always wear white and bright. We give a guarantee signed by the company, warranting every piece of Brazil Silver to wear twenty-five years. You can sell these goods to your best friends with perfect confidence, for every sale is as much a benefit to your customer as to yourself.

Working with goods that are warranted to wear and give satisfaction for so long a time as twenty-five years, and by a Company, too, whose capital is sufficiently large to make their guarantee good for almost any amount, is an advantage which no other firm is prepared to offer. If you want to make money fast now is the time to do it. If you think that five-dollar bills are good things to have, now is the time to get them. Never in the history of the agency business have agents had as good a chance to make money rapidly, and it is reasonably sure that they will never have another chance like it.

It is easy to make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business.

All Marked with Initial Letters, Without any Extra Cost.

Among all classes there has always been a strong desire to have their table ware marked with their initial letter, but on account of the heavy expense of having it marked only a very few have been able to afford it. Heretofore the cost of artistically marking table ware has been even greater than the cost of the goods; now, by our new methods, we are able to offer these elegant Brazil Silver goods, all marked with any initial letter desired in the very highest style of the art, without any extra cost for marking. These Brazil Silver goods, even if unmarked, would be the greatest bargain ever offered the public in table ware, but with the additional and highly desirable feature of being all marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, these goods are not only great bargains in table ware, but are the greatest bargains of any kind that have ever been offered to the public through agents or in any other way.

The people are always ready enough to buy what they want when it is presented to them in the form of a genuine bargain. Well, here is absolutely the greatest bargain every offered, and the agent who works with it will find that what he has is earnestly desired at nearly every house he visits; it is easy to get orders when you can offer great bargains, that the people really want and can afford.

It is easy to make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business.

Table and Dessert Knives.

Our knives are made of the finest tempered cutlery steel and are triple plate, in other words every dozen knives is plated with 12 dwt. of pure silver and hand burnished. Brazil Silver is the best metal ever discovered for making spoons and forks, but it is not hard and springy enough for knives. First-class knives can only be made of finely tempered steel and plated with pure silver. Our knives are of the highest grade, fully equal to Rogers' or any knives made. These knives will not wear as long as Brazil Silver goods, but they will wear as long as any knives made. We guarantee them to wear ten years in constant use. If not in constant use they will wear proportionately longer. We give a guarantee, signed by the Company, warranting the knives to wear and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser for ten years. As knives are usually used in families they will wear much longer, anywhere from fifteen to twenty years. They are fully equal to Rogers' knives and only cost about two-thirds as much. It may seem strange to some that we can sell so staple an article as silver plated knives at such reduced prices, but we are doing it. It is our way of giving the public good, solid value for their money. We are saving our customers about one-third of the price at which the same grade of knives are sold at the stores and jewelers. Anyone who will take the trouble to compare our knives and prices with triple plate 12 dwt. knives sold at the stores and jewelers, will be convinced of the truth of our statements. We are making a profit, of course, but our unequal facilities and immense trade make it possible for us to undersell all competitors, and our customers are getting the benefit of the lowest prices known in the silverware trade. We are not only selling at greatly reduced prices, but we also guarantee every article to be exactly as represented and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser, or money refunded.

The First Thing to Do.

If you decide to accept the agency, the first thing to do is to send to us for the agent's case of samples, which is the most complete and perfect case of samples that has ever been prepared for the convenience of agents. Our complete and perfect case of samples is not to be compared with anything that has ever been sent to agents before. It contains the very best and most salable articles in the world. There is nothing in the market that agents can sell as fast and sell as easily and make as much money out of, as they can the goods contained in this splendid case of samples, and everything is arranged and explained so that any agent can't fail to understand just how to go to work to make a great success of the business. As soon as you receive the case of samples you are ready for business. And if you are willing to work you are just as sure to make from \$3 to \$5 a day as the sun is to rise. Take the case of samples and canvass your territory according to the directions sent with the samples, until you have taken orders for the amount of goods you are prepared to send for. Then order the goods from us and fill your orders, and so continue.

The Magnificent Case of Samples Which We Furnish to Agents.

The case of samples which we furnish to agents contains the following articles:

One Sample Table Knife, retail price, \$2.10 per set of six	35	cents each
One Sample Dessert Knife, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Table Fork, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Table Spoon, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Dessert Fork, retail price, \$1.80 per set of six	30	cents each
One Sample Dessert Spoon, retail price, \$1.80 per set of six	30	cents each
One Sample Tea Spoon, retail price, 95 cents per set of six	15 5-6	cents each
One Sugar Shell	25	cents each
One Butter Knife	25	cents each
One Salt or Pepper Shaker	25	cents each
Total retail value of Samples	\$2.83 1-3	

We also send you with the case of samples a large and very beautiful catalogue, illustrating a full line of plated ware, such as Casters, Pickle Cruets, Butter Dishes, Tea Sets, Napkin Rings, etc., etc.

Reckoning the above samples at our lowest retail prices they amount to \$2.83 1-3. We furnish them to agents nicely put up in an elegant sample case or roll, for only 85 cents, which is 1.98 1-3 less than they amount to at our regular retail prices. This is less than one-third of the retail value of the samples, and much less than they cost us. The sample case or roll, which the samples are put up in costs us nearly as much as we require you to send for the samples, case and all.

Wholesale Prices.

Wholesale or agents' prices and all necessary information for carrying on the business will be furnished with the Outfit. Remember we make everything plain to you about wholesale prices, methods, etc., when we send you the Outfit.

VERY IMPORTANT.

The business we are offering is straightforward and honest in every way, shape and manner. Our goods are in every respect, just as we represent them to be. The Outfit we furnish our agents is exactly as we represent it, and is always sent the same day the order is received, just as agreed. We have tried to state these facts so they could and would be believed and still we are constantly receiving letters from parties who would like to engage in the business and would do so if they felt sure we were telling the truth and would do as we agree. Many of these doubters have been cheated and are not altogether to blame for doubting; the most of them say they think we are honest, they say we talk honest, but as they have already been swindled they don't feel like risking even eighty-five cents, and so, although our business is in every respect just as represented, and we always do just as we promise, we lose the services of a great many agents and they lose the benefit they might derive from the business because they are afraid we may not be telling the truth. Now, to overcome this spirit of doubt, we have decided to send Samples to all who wish us to do so, C. O. D., with privilege of examination at the express office. It costs us from twenty-five to forty cents more to send the samples this way, as we have to pay that amount for return charges on the money, but we are willing to do it and so prove to all that are interested that the Outfit and our goods are just what

we claim. If after reading this notice you think you would like to give the business a trial, but wish to see the Sample Case before you pay the eighty-five cents, cut out the following printed form, fill it out and send it to us and we will send the Outfit to your express office prepaid, and give the express agent instructions to let you thoroughly examine the Outfit, then, if you are satisfied that we have told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and are also satisfied that you can make money selling our goods, you can pay the express agent eighty-five cents and take the Outfit. If you are not satisfied, you can refuse to take it and the agent will return it to us. No other firm has ever made such an offer. We have adopted this plan in order to convince the most skeptical and to secure the services of all the good working agents in the United States.

(CUT OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM.)

Form to be Signed by those who wish us to send the Outfit C. O. D. with Privilege of Examination.

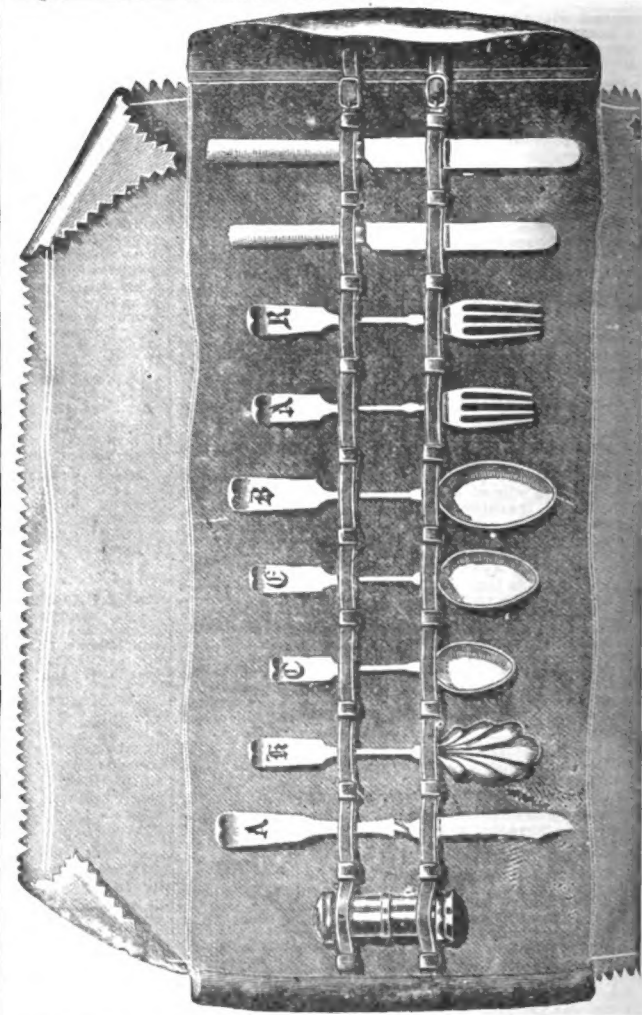
ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO., DETROIT, MICH.:
GENTLEMEN—Send the Outfit by Express, C. O. D., with privilege of examination. If I find the Outfit just as you say, I will pay the eighty-five cents required and give the business a fair trial, but if I am not satisfied that the Outfit is as good as you recommend it to be, I shall refuse to receive it. Now, remember, the understanding is that I am not to take the Outfit unless I, myself, am satisfied that it is all right. It must all depend on my own judgment. If I am satisfied, I will take the Outfit; if I am not satisfied, I shall not take it and shall not pay the eighty-five cents. If you want to send the Outfit with this understanding, send it along C. O. D., with privilege of examination.

Name.....

Postoffice.....

County.....State.....

Express Station.....



This cut shows the Sample Case or Roll, and how the samples appear put up ready for business. The Roll is made of highly finished waterproof canvas, and lined with soft flannel goods. The samples are held in place by strong straps. The whole rolls up and fastens with a leather strap which is firmly fastened to the back of the Roll. This is the most practical arrangement for carrying the samples that could be thought of. When rolled up the Case is compact and easy to carry. When open the samples show to the best possible advantage, making a good impression at first sight. This Sample Roll gives a business-like appearance; it is substantial and handsome, and invariably gives the impression that there is something valuable inside. All are anxious to see what it is you are carrying around with such care. This is of importance as it secures attention and interest at the start. There is nothing like having your samples put up in a business-like shape; it gives a favorable impression from the start, which is half the battle. It is the same in all matters. A store that looks like business attracts customers; while, from a shanty store, you would not, as a rule, expect the best things. The fact is, in the agency business, as in every other business, you must have things fixed up just right if you expect to succeed. Our Brazil Silver Goods are the best that have ever been offered for the price, or anywhere near it. The new feature of being marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, free of cost, is the greatest popular hit of the times; and the Sample Roll is arranged so as to show the goods off to the best possible advantage. Furthermore, we carefully teach every agent just how to take advantage of all these splendid qualities and popular features. Is it any wonder that our agents succeed better than those who are working for other firms?

We Prepay all Express Charges on Everything. We pay the charges on the Outfit and on all goods ordered. Remember, we pay all express charges.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO.,
Box 9800, DETROIT, MICH.